

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

M'ALLISTER

MEMORIAL.



Class

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Book

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OBITUARY ADDRESSES.



A. McAllister

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION,

AND

OBITUARY ADDRESSES

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE DEATH

OF

HON. H. N. M'ALLISTER,

OF CENTRE COUNTY, PA.,

May 5th and 6th, 1873.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A BIOGRAPHY OF DECEASED.

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PHILADELPHIA :

INQUIRER BOOK AND JOB PRINT, 301 CHESTNUT STREET.

1873.

OBITUARY ADDRESSES.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION,

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1873.

DEATH OF MR. M'ALLISTER.

THE PRESIDENT. It is with feelings of profound regret that the Chair announces the death, this morning, at half-past four o'clock, of our late esteemed associate, Hugh Nelson M'Allister.

Mr. CURTIN. Mr. President: In the presence of such a public loss and private sorrow, I move that this Convention do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to, and at ten o'clock and twenty-three minutes, A. M., the Convention adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1873.

The Convention met at ten o'clock, A. M., Hon. WM. M. MEREDITH, President, in the chair.

PRAYER.

REV. JAMES W. CURRY offered the following prayer:

Oh Lord, our Maker, we come into Thy presence this morning with hearts of sadness, when we remember that death has once more entered our Convention and laid his hand upon one of our members. We recognize this dispensation of Thy providence, Oh Lord, as a lesson teaching us that we must die. Teach us that we are dying mortals, and shortly we too shall be called upon to exchange time for eternity. While our hearts are sad, we rejoice to know that he upon whom the hand of death has been laid was a man that feared God. While in the world his great object was to please Thee. During his pilgrimage in this life his great object was to glorify God that he might enjoy Him forever. We are glad that Thou hast said in Thy word to those who are troubled and cast down: "Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God; believe also in Me; for in my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also." This hope cheers our hearts amid the gloom of death. This hope consoles us when we remember that Jesus entered the grave in mortal flesh and dwelt among the dead, and in the morning of the third day rose again and

ascended unto the Father, where He ever liveth to make intercession for us. We are thankful to Thee this morning, Almighty God, that we do not mourn as those without hope; and we rejoice that through Jesus Christ we can enter into Heaven and immortal joys. We earnestly invoke Thy blessing upon the bereaved wife, and upon the children. Oh, be a father to the fatherless and a husband to the widow. Do Thou grant, Oh Father, to draw them by the cords of Thy love; may they look unto Jesus, the fountain of all happiness, so live in the world, and so enjoy the rich benedictions of Divine grace, that when they too shall be called upon to pass the way of all the earth, they may meet the parent who has gone before, and with him enter into the rest prepared for the "People of God."

We ask Thy blessing this morning upon our assembling together. We pray for Thy blessing upon the exercises of this day. Be with us, Oh Lord, and teach us all to fear Thee and to work righteousness; and finally, when we have done and suffered Thy righteous will here upon the earth, bring us all to enjoy Thy unclouded presence in Thine everlasting kingdom; for Christ's sake. Amen.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President: I offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That with the most sincere feelings of unfeigned sorrow we learn of the death of Hon. Hugh Nelson M'Allister, a member of this Convention, who enjoyed the highest measure of respect for his learning and ability, and esteem for his virtues.

Resolved, That his death deprives this Convention of one of its most enlightened and industrious members, the Commonwealth of one of her most public spirited and useful citizens, the community in which he lived of a man whose indomitable energy, inflexible integrity, and spotless moral character attracted to him the confidence and affection of all who knew him and his family of a kind and devoted husband and father.

Resolved, That we do most heartily offer to the members of his bereaved family the homage of our sympathy and condolence in this the time of its deep distress.

Resolved, That in respect for the memory of our departed colleague the President is requested to appoint a committee of delegates to attend his funeral at Bellefonte on Thursday next.

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were ordered to a second reading; and the first resolution was read the second time, as follows:

Resolved, That with the most sincere feelings of unfeigned sorrow we learn of the death of Hon. H. Nelson M'Allister, a member of this Convention, who enjoyed the highest measure of respect for his learning and ability, and esteem for his virtues.

Mr. A. G. CURTIN, of Centre County. Mr. President: When we listened a few days since to the eloquent and just eulogies on the character and public service of William Hopkins, we did not suppose that in the wisdom of a mysterious Providence, the Great Destroyer would soon strike down another member of this body, a man quite his peer in all respects. In many of their characteristics—in their earnestness of purpose, in their integrity and their pure Christian character—William Hopkins and Hugh Nelson M'Allister were wonderfully alike; and without any disrespect to the living, or want of knowledge of their learning or usefulness, it can be truly said that no two men could have been taken from this enlightened body whose services were of more importance to its deliberations or whose loss will be more heavily felt in the communities in which they lived.

Mr. M'Allister, our colleague, was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, (then Mifflin County,) on the twenty-eighth of June, 1809, so that he was approaching his sixty-fourth year when he died. He was born

upon the farm still in the possession of the family, upon which his grandfather settled, who was the second white man to settle in the Valley of Lost Creek, in that county. Spending his early life in ordinary labor on the farm, he received at a neighboring academy the preparatory education necessary for his admission into college, and at the proper time he entered Jefferson College, at Canonsburg, Pa., where he graduated with distinguished honors. On his return to his home he entered, as a student of law, the office of William W. Potter, then the leader of the bar in the central portion of Pennsylvania. He completed his law studies in the law school at Dickinson College, under the charge of the late Judge Read.

When he had been admitted to the bar he returned to Bellefonte and commenced the practice of his profession. He had not to wait long for practice. He entered upon a lucrative business almost immediately on his coming to the bar, and from the day of his admission down to the time of his death he continued to enjoy a large and remunerative practice, the confidence of his clients and the respect and affection of all the people of that part of Pennsylvania who admired purity of character, integrity, energy and a freedom from all the arts and appliances which in modern times have detracted so much from the char-

acter of public men and defiled the politics of our time.

At the time of Mr. M'Allister's admission to the bar, Judge Thomas Burnside was upon the bench in the Fourth District. He was afterwards removed to a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court; and a distinguished and learned gentleman of this Convention, who has attained high eminence in his profession, became the judge of the district; and for ten years, the ten years of the beginning of his professional life, ten years of constant progress and of growing professional confidence, and of expanding views, as he grew to the full proportions of his distinguished manhood, he practiced before his Honor, Judge Woodward, who was then the President Judge of the Common Pleas of his district.

Mr. M'Allister never held a public station until he appeared in this Convention. He had a distaste for public life. He never would condescend to the means by which public station is too often acquired. His was a life of labor and industry, and with the earnestness of purpose which attached itself to his professional character, which incorporated him with the rights and interests of his clients, which led him to intensify all the feelings of his nature on any public work in which he was engaged, in any private enterprise, or en-

larged charity and hospitality, Mr. M'Allister could not from his nature be a politician.

But so great was his influence in the part of the State in which he lived, so entirely had he engrossed the confidence of the people in that community, that he could, at frequent periods of his life, have held public station if he had been willing. Over and over again he was solicited to ask for office from the people, and more than once his friends united in importunities to him to permit himself to be placed in judicial stations. Once, at least, during his professional life he refused to be the President Judge of the Common Pleas of his district, and I know full well that there is upon this floor a gentleman who would have been only too glad if his friends had presented his name for appointment. I hesitate to say that the members of this Convention knew little of this man until he appeared amongst them, as a member of the body. I know equally well, that it would be a more fruitful subject and more acceptable if I could speak of public works, of high official position, and the discharge of important political duties. I have no such eulogy on my dead friend. I can only speak of him as a true man, an honest, upright citizen, discharging all the private and relative duties to the public, to himself and to his family. I can speak only of his integrity, of his earnestness, of his purity; aye, more, I can speak of his

his devoted Christian character. Mr. M'Allister was a true believer in the Christian faith, and for many years of his life devoted much of his time to the affairs and welfare of the church to which he belonged and of which he was a ruling elder. It is a consolation to the surviving members of this Convention who were his friends to know that his accounts were settled, his peace was made with his God; and while we regret that a long life of suffering and ill-health has closed, and the useful and the good man has gone, we have the consolation of knowing that there is no fear of his future rest and peace and happiness.

Many years since, when worn down by the constant labors of his professional life, Mr. M'Allister conceived the idea that, in harmony with the tastes of first pursuits, his health might be restored by turning his attention to agriculture. He purchased a farm in the neighborhood of Bellefonte, where he lived, and turned his attention to skilled agriculture. He made that farm the model for all the people of the neighborhood. He introduced the most approved scientific culture of the day, the artificial stimulus necessary to restore exhausted land, and the most improved implements of modern farming; and while he made it the most perfect model farm in the State, he improved the arts of agriculture in all the surrounding country, where there is a noticeable improvement in the manner of

cultivation and increase in production, learned from the experience and experiments and skill of the lawyer-farmer who made agriculture merely the collateral of his professional life.

When Mr. M'Allister, with his zeal and his industry, became connected with practical agriculture, his views enlarged and he conceived the idea of establishing in Pennsylvania a school where farming would be taught as the chief part of a complete education, and to him belongs the credit in a large measure of the establishment of, first, the Farm School of Pennsylvania, and now the Agricultural College; and while other men faltered and hesitated under disappointment, when the school would have failed over and over again, the energy and persistence of this man kept it alive, and before his death he had the satisfaction of seeing it in successful operation; and there is not to-day, in all this great Commonwealth, a more successful educational institution than the Farmer's College of Pennsylvania.

I speak of these things as the public works of the man. I speak of his character as a loss to the neighborhood in which he had lived and labored. I speak of his Christian character and belief as an example to all men who are to follow him. This, Mr. President, is a public occasion, and our colleague died in a public place. It is fit that proper expressions of sym-

pathy and regret should be made in this body, but it is, perhaps, no place and this no occasion to intrude private sorrow; and yet at the risk of an impropriety, I shall be permitted to speak of him as my friend for many years. I was not his equal at the bar, but his rival, and in all the struggles of an active professional life, and amid the antagonisms which grow out of the trials which constantly occurred, in which we were opposing counsel, rarely indeed was our constant friendship interrupted. With an inclination to attract men and a modicum of ambition for public life, I admired in this man just the opposite qualities. To have made himself Governor or President, our colleague, who is dead, would have never turned from his intensity of purpose, his settled convictions of public or private duty, or his well settled religious belief. In that respect I never knew his equal; and while it could not be said that he had the affection which more attractive and magnetic qualities draw to the public man, he had the homage of the conviction in everybody who knew him, that he was a man of sterling integrity, of constant labor, of iron fidelity, and of a will which, fixed in a direction he believed right and true, never failed to carry with them the accomplishment of his purpose.

And this Convention will pardon me, even here, for the expression of my individual sorrow at the

death of such a man; my heart goes out in sympathy to my neighborhood, in which he lived, where the people are in tears to-day, because they have lost their foremost and best citizen, and we are united in sorrow over his dead body.

Between humanity living and humanity dead there is but a moment. The tabernacle which held the spirit, made by God's own hand in His image, is no more; and the spirit has gone to settle a final account. Eulogy can be of no consequence. When the good man dies a void is felt in society where he lived; and we marvel at the mysterious Providence which takes away the useful, the charitable and the good. It is no time for praise; it is the time to make solemn resolutions to imitate the example which they leave behind them; and the good works and the purity of character, the fidelity and the integrity are benefactions the good man leaves to those who are to follow him. Treading in the examples thus set it is for those who live, when the Great Destroyer comes to them, to leave behind such a character, and such works, and such a blameless life, that the benefactions they receive from those who are gone before may be shed upon those who are to follow them.

Of such a character was this man. He has left us a life to imitate, and let us profit by such an example. For long as the people live in the Blue Mountains of

Pennsylvania, long as there shall be a man who loves virtue and truth and integrity, there will be a fresh, green and beautiful Christian remembrance over the grave of Hugh Nelson M'Allister, when he is forgotten by those who have only enjoyed his acquaintance for a time, and welcomed him to their councils when his health was broken and dissolution fast, alas too fast, approaching.

I am not in a condition to trust myself further. In youth, we separate from our friends with regret. At the spring-time of life, when all of the future is rose-colored, we soon forget the separations which death causes. Nature's laws invite us to the enjoyment of health and vigorous life. In large communities, where you enjoy the friendship of the many, the dropping away of a friend to-day, and to-morrow, makes but a ripple on the surface of public affairs or social life. Of the event we take little note. But when the man of the small community, of the village in the country, goes, all in that community feel the loss, and those who live, and enjoy the small circle of intimate friendship and social relations, feel deeply the wound when death strikes down one—but one—if he was a useful and just man. I will be pardoned for my emotion by those who live in the interior of the State, when I express so much feeling over the grave of H. Nelson M'Allister, who was my companion in life, my neigh-

bor, and, higher and more sacred to my memory, he was my friend.

Mr. BIGLER. Mr. President: Hugh Nelson M'Allister is dead. He died May the 5th, 1873, at No. 1104 Spruce street, Philadelphia, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, surrounded by members of his family and other friends. His great mind remained clear to the end; among its last efforts was to signify his faith and trust in the Saviour.

He was born and raised in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, but has resided at Bellefonte, Centre County, for near forty years. Blessed with fine native abilities, and accomplished with a liberal education, he readily became a lawyer of note in his adopted home; and I think all who have known him well will agree that he was a character in himself, peculiar to himself and that, as a whole, that character, so peculiar, was one approaching the beauties of perfection. Men of similar characteristics are rarely met. His precise like I have never seen. In industry, resistless energy, positive will, passionate devotion, dauntless courage, large benevolence and tender humanity, Hugh N. M'Allister seldom, if ever, had an equal.

He was a member of this body, the only office or trust he ever held from the people of the State; and those who have witnessed his labors as a delegate

can form some idea of the part he performed in other departments of life. Sincere, earnest and conscientious, when once he espoused a cause he followed it up in season and out of season. Ceaseless vigilance in small things as well as great ones, was his habit. In his profession he was the same energetic, methodical and persistent worker that he showed himself to be in this body.

As a farmer—and he was one of the most learned in the State—he displayed these same characteristics in a high degree; so also when he performed his part as the foremost man, as he uniformly was, in enterprises and improvements to advance his town and section of the State. As significant of his energy and unselfish devotion, I mention the fact that in the summer of 1872 he left his clients, his farm and other interests, and went from Bellefonte to St. Louis to attend and address an agricultural convention, simply because he had taken the impression that he might say something that would be useful to the farmers of the west; and he readily became the leading spirit in that body, though it contained representatives from more than one-third of the States of the Union.

But in no other work of his life did the great characteristics of H. N. M'Allister appear to so much advantage as in the discharge of his Christian duties. As an elder in the Presbyterian Church, representing

his congregation in presbytery, he was uniformly in the lead of the clergy in everything with which it was proper for him to deal; he was full of suggestion, of work and devotion; so he appeared in the synod, in the general assembly, and so also at the great meeting that united the old and the new school of the Presbyterian Church. Becoming chairman of the board of sustentation of the Presbyterian Church, he found opened before him a field for unselfish labor and charity commensurate, and only commensurate, with his enlarged desire to carry forward the work of the Lord. The clergy of his denomination throughout the State bear willing testimony to the wisdom and high ability he displayed in the management of that work. He had unequaled ability to induce others to give of their means to the work of the church, and he possessed in an eminent degree the disposition to give abundantly himself. I shall excite criticism from no one in his section when I say that the private charities he has bestowed upon the needy, in number and in the aggregate sum, far exceed those of any other man in the interior of the State.

What a character! Always excitable, at times passionate, imperious and relentless, and yet generous, benevolent, compassionate and affectionate. As neighbor, husband and father, I believe his life was faultless.

How saddening the thought, Mr. President, that one

so distinguished for intelligence and conscientious concern for the welfare of his country, will never again appear in this body. Let us be consoled with the belief that our loss is his gain, for "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Mr. HAMILTON ALRICKS, of Dauphin County. Mr. President: I beg leave to add a few words to what has been so well said in relation to the public loss which has converted the hall of this Convention into the house of mourning. I did not reside near Mr. M'Allister, although I was born on the adjoining farm to that on which he was born, in Juniata County. I knew his manner of living from his youth up. He was reared on a farm, as you have been told, and his love for agriculture adhered to him till the close of his life. It can be said of him truly that he could raise two spears of grass where any other farmer on the same area of ground in Pennsylvania could raise one. There was no implement of husbandry, there was no plow or harrow, there was no reaper or mower, no pitch-fork or any other instrument of modern discovery, that he did not test himself. He was the model Pennsylvania farmer. I thought I knew something about agriculture; but I confess I was put to shame when I saw his farm, and the products of it.

You have been told that at an early day he went

to Jefferson College, where he graduated with distinguished honors, and you have been informed with whom he studied law, Mr. Potter, and whom he succeeded in business. He was the same emphatic gentleman at the bar that you found him in this Convention. He belonged to the positive school; but he was always controlled by right motives. He could have been upon the bench, but he declined the position. What can be said of him, can scarcely be said with the same degree of truth of any other lawyer in Pennsylvania.

The attorney at the bar and the judge upon the bench alike came down to take his counsel; and he never failed them.

He was the motive power in the church, in the Agricultural College, and in all benevolent enterprises of the day in his section of the State. He was a pillar of the Presbyterian Church, to which he belonged, and throughout the whole of that denomination of Christians in this broad land he was looked to as a burning and shining light.

It will not be easy for us to supply his place in this Convention. You, Mr. President, gave him work enough for any ordinary man to do. He was on two of the most important committees connected with the Convention. He labored there with untiring zeal. I believe it was said of him truly that he never missed

a meeting of a committee; and yet he was not satisfied. He went before other committees, and there, with all the zeal that he could command, he urged the adoption of those measures which he thought it would be proper to introduce into the fundamental law of this Commonwealth.

You, gentlemen, saw him, before he was stricken down, at his seat. You saw that he was impetuous as a mountain stream. He was anxious to stir up the heart of every member of this Convention to a sense of his duty to adopt proper reforms. He was at his seat denouncing those frauds which have brought such discredit upon our Commonwealth, and he fell beneath his labors. He had not the physical power that would enable him to do all that he thought it his duty to perform.

I presume, Mr. President, I might say that the admonition is to you and to me, and to each gentleman in this Convention:

“ Our hearts
Like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave. ”

Hopkins is gone; the man at my right hand is gone. Well may we exclaim: “Of whom shall we seek for shelter but of Thee, oh! God, who at our sins art justly displeased.”

Mr. W. H. ARMSTRONG, of Lycoming County. Mr. President: Once more the Convention stands in the immediate presence of death. Another of our number has been called from the activities of life and the interests which engaged him, to lie silent in the arms of the dread master at whose bidding we all must go.

My acquaintance with the deceased, though personal and friendly, was not intimate. We were not often called into close relations, and I knew him far better in his reputation than from personal intimacy. For all the years of his long and active life he was esteemed by those who knew him best, as an upright, earnest Christian man. He was distinguished for the zeal of his professional fidelity. The character of his mind was such that he espoused whatever interest he assumed to defend or urge, with an untiring industry which pursued his client's interest through its most intricate details. No weariness deterred him, no difficulties obstructed his pursuit which energy could surmount. The fidelity of his devotion gained him friends and clients and success. In this regard his reputation extended far beyond the limits of his county. His interest once strongly enlisted in a cause, or in a project of public or private importance, engaged him for the time almost to the exclusion of other pursuits. He was proud of his profession and of his professional reputation. His legal discrimination was acute, and

his analysis of facts strong and clear. The integrity which so distinguished his life gave him strong hold upon the confidence of both the court and jury, and was a principal cause of the success which distinguished his professional career. He was an indefatigable worker, a safe counsellor, and an ardent advocate.

But he was scarcely less distinguished for his devotion to agriculture. Possessed of a large and beautiful farm adjoining the town of Bellefonte, where he lived, he applied himself with characteristic earnestness to its improvement. It became a model of neatness and excellence in all that could embellish or improve it. He was among the foremost to adopt and experiment with any implements that would lighten the labor of the farm, and equally prompt to test the value of whatever offered by way of improved varieties of grain or improved modes of culture. His experiments were conducted under his own immediate supervision, and the results noted with characteristic exactness. It is said that many able papers were contributed by him to the reports of the National Agricultural Department. With so fond a taste for agricultural pursuits, he did not permit it to divert him from his chosen profession, and with whatever ardor it was pursued he did not suffer the pleasures of the one to interfere with the duties of the other.

With tastes thus naturally turning to the interests of agriculture it is not surprising that he should early have become the friend of systematic agricultural education. This taste grew upon him in his later years and became one of the sources of his purest enjoyments. In the development of these inclinations he became one of the most devoted friends of the Central Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. And to him more than to any other person is due the establishment of that institution in Centre County. He was identified with the project from its earliest inception. He was liberal of his time and of his means in promoting its interests, and his devotion to all that could advance its prosperity became almost a passion of his life. His interest in it never flagged; his efforts in its behalf never faltered, and when in the vicissitudes of its fortunes it most needed friends, he was most ready to aid it; never despondent when its fortunes were adverse, he allowed no prosperity to check the carefulness of his guard, nor to betray him into any relaxation of his efforts to promote its interest. He was, I believe, a director of the institution through most, if not all, its history; and no inscription could more fitly adorn its walls than one that should perpetuate his devotion to its interests.

He was not ambitious of public positions; he pursued the even tenor of his life in the practice of the

profession he had chosen, and the pursuit of such kindred pleasures as best advanced his domestic and personal happiness. The first public office he ever held was as a member of this Convention. He esteemed it to be an honor to be thus chosen, and applied himself to its duties with the same all engrossing earnestness which characterized his pursuit of whatever strongly engaged his attention. He prepared himself by careful and assiduous study to discharge his duties here with fidelity to the high trust he had assumed.

My fellow-members will confirm my testimony to the unselfish and self-sacrificing devotion with which he cast himself with all his energy into the work before us. His industry was untiring. The earnestness of his purpose and the ardor of his temperament forbade him to moderate his exertions to the measure of his strength. With more confidence in his physical endurance than the measure of his years and his impaired health would justify, he labored on in the intense earnestness of his nature, until the Master called him from this scene of his busy and earnest and useful life.

I cannot forbear to further notice his Christian character.

He was a member and an elder in the Presbyterian Church for many years, and in all his church relations

commanded the confidence and respect of all who knew him. He was liberal as a giver and earnest as a worker. He was a polished stone in the church. The crowning glory of his life was his devoted, consistent, humble walk with God. Such was his reputation; and it enfolds him like a robe of glory. To the vision of his faith this world was not his home. It was the field of his labor, the changing scene of mingled joys and sorrows. He lived in the conscious triumph of his faith. His life proclaimed him a Christian, and he died in the faith he professed. It was the uniform expression of his consistent Christian character.

This sad event is not without its admonition to the living. In the midst of life we are in death. To many here, advancing years proclaim the relaxing grasp on life. Twice within the short period of our mingling together, we have united our sympathies with those who mourn around the open grave of a departed colleague. Where next that deadly bow may wing its shaft God only knows. May our faith be brighter and our lives purer for the admonition this bereavement brings. May it teach us, whilst we labor to gather prosperity around the State, that, in the midst of our activities, our ambitions and our cares, to lay up our treasure in Heaven.

“ This world is poor from shore to shore,
And like a baseless vision,
Its lofty domes and brilliant ore,
Its gems and crowns, are vain and poor ;
There's nothing rich but Heaven.

“ Creation's mighty fabric all
Shall be to atoms riven ;
The skies consume, the planets fall,
Convulsions rock this earthly ball ;
There's nothing firm but Heaven.”

Mr. G. W. WOODWARD, of Philadelphia. Mr. President: Once more an afflictive Providence reminds us that in the midst of life we are in death. Once more we pause in the active duties of life to think and speak of death. It is said the insatiate archer loves a shining mark. He has sped his arrows at two of our most distinguished and valued members. He has snatched away from us the two members, in the persons of Col. Hopkins and Mr. M'Allister, whom we could least afford to spare.

“ The death of those distinguished by their station,
But by their virtue more, awakes the mind
To solemn dread, and strikes a saddening awe,
Not that we grieve for them, but for ourselves,
Left to the toil of life.”

It was in the spring of 1841—thirty-two years

ago—that I was sent to preside in the courts of the Fourth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, consisting then of the counties of Mifflin, Huntingdon, Centre, Clearfield and Clinton, and there I first met Mr. M'Allister. He resided at Bellefonte, Centre County, but was growing into a large and lucrative practice in several counties of the district. For ten years he practiced law before me with great ability and success. I have never seen so laborious and pains-taking a lawyer. His great forte lay in the preparation of his causes. He never came into court unfurnished with evidence, if evidence could, with any amount of research and industry, be obtained to establish the facts of the case. Many ejectments upon original titles were tried in those ten years, and I have known Mr. M'Allister to give fifty or sixty warrants and surveys in evidence, to fix the location of the one tract in suit. He would sweep over a whole district of country and examine surveyors as to every mark in miles of lines, to verify the conclusions he wished to establish in the cause upon trial. In all lawsuits, but especially in ejectments upon original titles, the law arises upon the facts in evidence, and he is the most philosophical and successful lawyer who arranges his facts most fully, and places them before the court and jury in that orderly sequence which is most natural and logical. Perhaps I have known lawyers

of more subtle reasoning faculties than Mr. M'Allister possessed, but I never knew one who could prepare a cause so well.

But he was not a mere lawyer. He took a lively and intelligent interest in all public questions, and when the State Agricultural Society was formed he brought into that the same methodical and earnest habits which had always distinguished him at the bar, and became a valuable member and manager of that useful institution. Very much through his influence the late General James Irvin was induced to give a valuable farm, in Penn's Valley, as the seat for the Farm School, which was established thereon and is still flourishing. In the erection of the college buildings, the conduct of the school and the farm, and, indeed, in all the expenses and labors incident to this great undertaking, Mr. M'Allister bore a foremost and conspicuous part. It is no exaggeration to say that, notwithstanding the munificent donation of General Irvin, (for which his name should be held in grateful memory,) the State would not have had the Farm School at the time and to the extent it was established, had it not been for the indomitable energy and perseverance of Mr. M'Allister. He had excellent co-laborers, among whom I rejoice to mention with affection, the late James T. Hale, but Mr. M'Allister was the master spirit of that enterprise,

and to him more than to any, and perhaps, to all others, is the public indebted for one of the noblest institutions of our day. Not only a good lawyer, he was a good farmer; and what is higher praise, he was a good man. The church of Christ, education, and all moral and reformatory agencies and influences received countenance and liberal support from him.

Of his distinguished services in this body there is no need for me to speak. You wisely placed him at the head of our most important committee, and he addressed himself to his duties with an assiduity that was characteristic, but quite too much for his enfeebled health. What he recommended, by way of reform of the ballot, was gladly adopted by the Convention and will stand as an imperishable monument to his wisdom.

Mr. President, when I think of that picturesque and beautiful village of Bellefonte, and of the refined and intelligent society I found there in 1841, it makes my heart ache to think of the desolation death hath wrought there. There was John Blanchard, one of the noblest men it has been my good fortune to know, and Bond Valentine, a genial Quaker, and James T. Hale, a man of rare endowments, and James Petrikin, a lawyer, an artist and a wit, and James Burnside, who was everybody's friend and had a friend in everybody. These were the lawyers among whom Mr.

M'Allister laid the deep and solid foundations of his professional character, and now they are all gone to that judgment bar before which we must all ere long appear. Bellefonte has, indeed, reason to mourn for such losses, and to say, with old Jacob, "if I be bereaved of my children I am bereaved."

Mr. CARTER. Mr. President: Although standing here this bright May morning, amidst health and strength, I yet seem to feel in the shadow of a great sorrow, almost as if in the awful presence of the messenger of death. As the eldest member of the Committee on Suffrage, of which Mr. M'Allister was chairman, I would offer my brief tribute of respect to his memory, and be permitted to say a few words expressive of the high regard I had for him, as a true, conscientious man, whose eye ever seemed single to his path of duty and labor.

I never knew him personally until we met in Harrisburg as members of this Convention, though I had often heard of the wonderful, persistent energy which he so long displayed in building up and sustaining an institution which he believed would be of great public benefit, and this, too, under all kinds of discouragements, and without hope of reward, other than that which follows the performance of duty. But being thrown much in his company last winter, I soon dis-

covered him to be a firm, unflinching advocate of reform, and though by nature conservative, he ever seemed desirous to go any length to reform or correct those abuses that had gradually crept into the government. His earnestness of purpose, and intense energy of character and zeal, could brook no barriers in his way. His industry was ever unflagging, and surely such a course is worthy of our praise and such a character of our imitation. His end was, no doubt, hastened by his unwillingness to remain away from his field of labor. I often last winter felt it my duty to caution him of the danger of exertion in his weak state, but without avail. He had come here for an object; he had to work; his eye was single to that object alone. Methinks, sir, I see him now, as passing down the aisle, with his usual roll of papers in his hands, over which he had been engaged, perhaps, for hours, with his preoccupied look and manner. Nothing but labor for him. Some men, Mr. President, pass through life, apparently without an object or purpose, seeking their own ease and sensual gratification, and totally indifferent to or unconscious of their responsibilities and the field of duty their Creator had assigned them, not knowing that He had conferred on them the high privilege of being collaborators with Him in the great work of elevating humanity. How many engage in the pursuit of

wealth as the great object of human existence, content to elbow their way through the world, regardless of the beautiful and refining influences which, if cultivated, would irradiate their path through life and hallow its close; and never realizing that the true man should aim at leaving the world a little better for his having lived in it. Not such was our friend; to him duty was the pole-star of his life; honest, unremitting labor with unselfish end, his life course; always just and honest in intention, and a serious, straightforward man at all times. Such was his character, and such his life, as described by his life-long friend, Governor Curtin. Such men are too scarce not to be prized and respected. But he is gone; his long, active life is ended; he has found the rest he has so well earned. The icy hand of death has stilled the throbbing pulse and cooled the fevered brain.

“Life’s fitful fever o’er, he sleeps well.”

Soon his mortal remains will be borne to the silent tomb, at his distant home, by his sorrowing friends and neighbors, who knew his worth and lament his loss. There will he rest, amid the quiet, rural scenes he loved so well, and had done so much to adorn. May we all benefit by his example.

MR. ANDREW REED, of Mifflin County. Mr. President: Scarcely have the habiliments of mourning which draped this hall, in memory of the late William Hopkins, been removed, when the announcement is made that another seat, in the same row, on the same side of this chamber, is vacant. H. N. M'Allister is dead.

Living as he did, in an adjoining county, and in the same district which I have the honor, in part, to represent on this floor, I feel that I would be false not only to the promptings of my own nature, but also to that sense of duty which would seem to require it if, on an occasion of this kind, I did not bear my testimony to his worth as a man, a lawyer, a Christian, a neighbor and friend.

I have known Mr. M'Allister from boyhood. *As a man, his chief characteristic, in my opinion, was that of untiring energy in the prosecution of conceived duty.* Everything he undertook, whether in church, in State, or in his private business, received the attention of all his powers, both of mind and body. He was a positive man; there was nothing negative in his character. He formed opinions on nearly every subject which came before him, and then clung to them with a persistency which could only arise from a settled belief in their right. These traits exhibit themselves in all the relations of his life.

As a lawyer he was distinguished for ability, integrity and assiduous devotion to the interests of his clients. The best energies of his life were spent in the service of his profession; a profession which has been well said "to be old as magistracy, noble as virtue, and necessary as justice."

As a Christian he showed forth the same qualities of perseverance and energy which distinguished his labors in the law. Instead of observing just enough of the outward forms to give him the name, he was active, zealous and working. He attended upon all the ordinances of the church to which he belonged, and to its support and the support of its different boards he contributed with an unwonted liberality.

As a citizen he was conspicuous in the advocacy and support of all measures which tended to improve and benefit the common weal. As a neighbor and friend he was kind and true. A person with the qualities of Mr. M'Allister could not but make his mark on the community in which he lived and moved.

He was not an office-seeker. His temperament and habits had nothing in them congenial to the pursuits of the politician; while, if they had, his great devotion to the pursuit of his profession left no room for their exercise.

The election of Mr. M'Allister as a delegate to this

Convention met with the approbation of not only the party with which he was connected, in the section of country where he was known, but of all parties. They knew that as far, at least, as he was concerned, neither party considerations nor anything else would induce him to swerve from what he considered to be the right, and the Journal of our proceedings will show that they were not mistaken in their man. His voice and vote will always be found on the side of that which tends to promote greater purity in the administration of public affairs.

He took great interest in the work of the Convention. When exhausted nature would have seemed to forbid it, we still found him at his post. But a few days before he died I was at his bedside, when he inquired of me what the Convention was doing, and when told that a certain section of the judiciary report was under consideration, he expressed his regret at not being able to attend, and hoped that certain provisions to secure the independence and purity of the judiciary would be adopted. He is now gone. The Convention, the State, the church, the community in which he lived, and his family will all feel and deplore his loss.

Mr. J. M. BAILEY, of Huntingdon County. Mr. President: The second time has the silent messenger

stolen in upon our deliberations, and has removed another of our number to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

While the visits of death are frequent, yet we never become accustomed to them, and always stand in awe at his presence. Terrible and full of warning as such visits always are, it is strange we heed them so little, and never fully realize their dreadful reality, until death's arrow strikes an object near to our own hearts.

In rising to second the resolutions so eloquently and feelingly presented by the distinguished delegate from Centre, (Mr. Curtin,) I desire, upon this melancholy occasion, to pay my humble tribute to the memory and worth of him who so lately was our associate here, but now is no more. Hugh N. M'Allister, *as a man*, was positive and earnest, honest and faithful, sincere and generous, assiduous and untiring in all he undertook—"whatsoever his hands found to do, he did with his might."

Among the bold and daring he was as bold and brave as any. Among the faithful he was as faithful as any. Among the wise and intellectual, he had as much wisdom as any. While his disposition was as gentle and unsuspecting and artless as truth herself, he was, when aroused in the performance of a duty, as courageous as a lion.

But, sir, whatever eulogies may be passed on him upon this floor, or whatever the biographer may write about him, no higher tribute can be paid to his personal character and private worth than this, *that he was the idol of his family*. Whatever a man may seem to the world—in whatever disguise he may be able to conceal himself from others—he is always exposed to his own family; if he be insincere, untrue or unkind, none know it sooner; and if he be honest and noble, their affection will attest it. And I would rather trust to such silent testimony to a man's moral worth than to all the eulogies and panegyrics that can be pronounced.

As a Christian—his virtuous life attested the sincerity and fidelity of his profession, as well as the power and goodness of the Christian religion.

As a citizen—he was true and public spirited, always encouraging and aiding such enterprises as in his opinion would advance the material and social interests of his State and community; and to whatever project he laid his hand he pushed it with that assiduous effort and untiring perseverance and earnest vigor which was the secret of his success in life.

As a lawyer—he had no superior in central Pennsylvania; his unswerving integrity in his profession commanded the respect and confidence of every one. He was always courteous to his adversaries, true to

the court as well as his client, and always having prepared his cause well by the dint of labor and study, he ably tried it. I say *his cause*, for he always made his client's cause his own. He never sought public position, but frequently declined it. Devoted to his profession he was satisfied with whatever of fame his skillful and successful practice might reward him, and with such remuneration as its faithful pursuit might bring to him. He never sought the people for any thing, but the people sought him for all they have given him.

As a member of this Convention—none labored harder or with a more earnest and anxious desire to faithfully perform his duties. He was not working for fame—no man courted fame less than he—but the necessity of reform had so fastened itself upon his earnest and faithful nature as to allow him no rest from the labor which, as a member of this Convention, he had assumed. And no one can doubt, sir, that this excessive labor hastened his death. Of him it is literally true, *he gave his life to his State*.

And now, sir, in concluding these hasty remarks, allow me to hold up as worthy of our imitation, the life of Hugh N. M'Allister, and point to the secret of his great success, which lay in his unswerving fidelity, in his Christian life, in his indomitable energy, untiring labor and ever enduring perseverance, and point

to this grand moral in it: *Never seek public position, and never shirk nor stint either a public or private duty.*

“Honor and fame from no condition rise,
Act well your part—there all the honor lies.”

Mr. HARRY WHITE, of Indiana County. Mr. President: I would gladly be silent if I were not conscious silence was not the performance of my duty. When the yeas and nays hereafter are called in our proceedings, the name of M'Allister will give no response.

“Like the dew on the mountain,
Like the foam on the river,
Like the bubble on the fountain,
Thou art gone forever.”

Our deceased associate was a man who “feared God, loved truth, and hated covetousness.” He had attained this degree of excellence through years of earnest effort for a proper life. It has been properly said that he was one of our most upright, sincere and industrious members. He has lost his life from a disease contracted in earnest and devoted attention to his duties in this body. There are those here whom we should, in the course of nature, have expected to precede him to “that bourne whence no traveler returns.” You, Mr. President, and others, were his seniors in years. They have been left and

he has been taken. Faithfully and well he performed his part in life. Now, at its close, his friends, and we, his survivors, can stand at his open tomb and take an instructive retrospect.

A brief biography of his life has been appropriately and properly given by those who knew and associated with him in his useful career. In the place of his residence, a beautiful town nestling in the mountains of the State we are called here to serve, he had attained a prominence and excellence in his profession proper to be held before the young and before the ambitious at the bar. Shunning public life because he disliked the associations and jostlings necessary for success there, he did not shun public duty; a grateful relief from his professional cares, anxieties and conflicts was the occupation of the agriculturist. How happy he was when, upon his farm adjoining the town of his residence, he exhibited to his visitor the degree of cultivation of which the native soil was susceptible, and aided in giving proper encouragement to that employment the Father of his country said "was the noblest occupation of men."

It has been my privilege, sir, more than once to partake of the liberal hospitality, at his home, of our deceased associate. When the delegates from the different parts of the State met at the town of his residence, near the location of the Agricultural Col-

lege of Pennsylvania, the home of Mr. M'Allister was opened to all. It was the centre to which all repaired, and which every visitor left with regret. It was my honor and privilege, Mr. President, to be associated for four years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. I would be false to the recollection of those associations if I did not now pay proper tribute to his industry and usefulness, to his sincere devotion, to his earnest enthusiasm for the great work with which he was so intimately connected. Time and again, suffering from infirmities incident to approaching years, he left the comforts and quiet of his agreeable home to attend the meetings of the Board, in a distant town. Time and again he visited the experimental farms located in different portions of the State, paying his own expenses, and refusing any remuneration for the contribution of his valuable time.

A more sincere man, a more earnest public servant, in any position he occupied, I never knew in my limited experience. It is said:

“The evil that men do, lives after them :
The good is oft interred with their bones.”

We who knew Mr. M'Allister, who knew him as a lawyer, who knew him as an agriculturist, who knew

him as a citizen, owe it to public virtue, owe it to private worth, to pay proper tribute to his memory.

Mr. M'Allister's death, it has been properly said, will create a void in the community in which he lived. No eloquence is necessary to impress this upon us. A void, sir, must be felt in that community for which he had done so much. Missed! Yes, there he will most be missed. There he was known as the affectionate husband, the kind father, the Christian gentleman. There he attained his professional eminence, and so great was his integrity that his statements were always accepted by the courts before which he practiced.

His conflicts in professional life did not prevent the exercise, in his community, of his liberal and enterprising spirit. While our deceased brother had, in common with humanity, some peculiarities, yet in no sense was he a narrow or illiberal man. His was the voice of public improvement, and tireless hours of his life have been spent to aid the development and advancement of the resources and industries of the Commonwealth. As a citizen, then, no less than lawyer, husband, parent, friend, will he be missed at his home and all over our State.

Hugh N. M'Allister was indeed a great man, great because he never undertook without bringing success; he never embarked in an enterprise unless he gave

it all the power and the stimulus of his great energy and intellect. Literally did he obey the scriptural injunction: "What thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Yes, sir, Hugh N. M'Allister, our deceased associate, was in every sense of the term a great man, and in his death how natural to recall that sentiment of Longfellow:

"The lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our lives sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

Mr. J. G. PATTON, of Bradford County. Mr. President: When the Convention adjourned on Friday last, little did we think we should be called upon, so soon, to mourn the loss of an honored and prominent member of this body. But the unrelenting hand of death is no respecter of persons. The rich and the poor, the proud and the lowly, alike are in turn made the victims of its unerring aim.

It was my privilege and my good fortune to know Mr. M'Allister for many years. I have had the pleasure of meeting him at his home in Bellefonte, where he has long resided. But for the past few years I have not seen much of him. When, however, I met him in the Convention at Harrisburg, we renewed our acquaintance, and I was pleased to notice,

in our intercourse, that his judgment was still sound, that his intellect was as fresh and vigorous as the day I first knew him, notwithstanding age had furrowed his brow and silvered his locks.

It has been but a few days since he was here in our midst, moving around in comparatively comfortable health, always to be found at his post of duty, looking after the best interests of his native State.

He was a close student, a gentleman of great experience and learning, of inflexible integrity, of great tenacity of purpose; a man of great industry—faithful and honest in the discharge of every trust confided to his care. Possessed of sterling honor, and a high sense of justice, he could not be swerved from the path of duty by any pretense, however plausible or alluring. He performed every duty with an honest purpose to practice and exemplify the virtues of a Christian gentleman.

As chairman of the Committee on Suffrage, Election and Representation, he was an active and efficient member, and we all remember with what earnestness and power he advocated and explained the report of the committee and urged its adoption.

But he has gone to the life beyond, and we have one member less than we had at our last meeting.

This Hall, which has so often echoed with the sound of his familiar voice, will be again draped in

mourning, out of respect to the memory of our departed brother, and to remind us that death has again invaded our body, and summoned another worthy member to his final home.

Let us all prepare, then, for the great hereafter that awaits us, for but few decades will intervene before we in turn shall be summoned to follow.

Mr. WILLIAM LILLY, of Carbon County. Mr. President: I rise in my place at the risk of being considered presumptuous, to add a very few words to what has been so fitly and well spoken in eulogy to the memory of our late fellow-delegate, H. N. M'Allister, for whom we mourn to-day as one lately passed away.

My personal acquaintance with him commenced at Harrisburg, in November last, upon the convening of this body. My knowledge of him extends to many years past, for a man of so much philanthropy must be known over the whole State that he has so greatly benefited by his self-sacrificing acts for the public good. I had the honor of a place upon the committee of this Convention over which he presided. From the time of the organization of the committee at Harrisburg until he was stricken by the disease that proved fatal to his life, no man could have been more faithful to his trust and to what he conceived to be

his duty. Always at his post, ever zealous in the perfecting of that which was before him.

He was strong in his convictions—honest as the sun—when once convinced that he was right he would stand as firm as the eternal hills. I firmly believe he would have died for the faith that was in him.

For these stern and inflexible qualities I learned to respect and admire him as one of God's noblest works—an honest man. Peace be to his ashes.

Mr. A. A. PURMAN, of Greene County. Mr. President: This occasion—the death of Hon. Hugh N. M'Allister—is full of melancholy interest. It is not because it is new; for the annals of time are crowded with memorials of the dead, with repetitions of sorrows which know no end, and with renewals of anguish which continually find utterance upon the departure of the good, the wise, and the great. The present event is another evidence of the general course of human experience—that youth, manhood and age drop into the grave in all the pride of their beauty, their power, and their brightest hopes. Such is human life.

It is but a few weeks since we were weeping over the death of that good, wise, and pure man and Christian gentleman, Col. William Hopkins, an occasion

which called forth all my sympathies for the afflicted family of the deceased, as well as the present. Doubtless it is in accord with the wisdom of Providence that human life should be held by so frail a tenure. We are not permitted to be insensible to the dangers that everywhere surround us. Providence intends that we shall be daily touched with the sense of human infirmity. In the death of this good man we learn again the salutary lesson that Providence has allotted to each of us his own sufferings; that there is no exemption of age, or rank, or station, but that there is a common doom appointed for all. As we feel the yet distant evils while administering to the calamities of others with a soothing kindness, let us improve the occasion to make us wiser, holier and better.

The life of our departed friend, Hon. Hugh N. M'Allister, has been one of toil and usefulness, both to his friends and the State. But death has consigned him to the home where he shall rest until that hour when it shall be declared that the dead shall live and that the living shall die.

I will not attempt to recount his virtues or recall his character.

What can I say that has not been already better said? What can I suggest which has not already been suggested, or suggests itself to your own hearts

and to the hearts of his near and dear friends in a more touching form? We can look back upon the life of our departed friend with an approving consciousness. We can see everything to love and admire in his character, and nothing to awaken regret for intentional error so common in mankind. Such as he was we can bear him in our hearts and on our lips with manly praise. We can hold him up as a fit example for youthful emulation and ambition, not dazzling, but elevated; not ostentatious, but pure. His name can justly be breathed as a watch-word for honesty, while his public and private life will thrill as the oracles.

Mr. J. A. SIMPSON, of Philadelphia. Mr. President: There are moments in every man's life when the tongue refuses to perform its office, when it is meet that his voice should be still, as the fittest expression of his emotion; there are other moments when duty commands him to speak, or, as the Preacher says:

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to keep silence and a time to speak."

Sir, I should feel that I had failed in the performance of a duty if I were to remain silent at a moment as solemn as this is, whilst others were bearing their testimony to the worth and faithfulness of our

deceased brother; if I, too, did not present my tribute and lay one leaf of laurel upon that open coffin.

It was my fortune, Mr. President, to have made the acquaintance of our lamented fellow-member, some sixteen years ago, whilst attending court in one of the counties composing the section of the State where he lived; that acquaintance was but a casual one, however, and probably never would have been more than that but for the occurrences that brought us together again as members of this body.

You, Mr. President, deemed it proper to place me upon the committee of which he was the honored head, and it was there, in the committee room, or in his chamber, discussing and preparing business for the consideration of the committee, or the Convention, that I became impressed with his untiring energy, his earnestness, and the zeal that he brought to the discharge of his duties; and it was there, too, that I learned how entirely, how devotedly he brought every faculty of his mind to bear upon the important questions before the committee—nothing too great for his grasp, nothing too small to escape his scrutiny.

Differing from him, as I did, upon some of the questions that we had to consider, it is but proper that I should say that the fidelity and integrity displayed by his earnest advocacy of such measures as he deemed important in the cause of real reform, con-

vinced me that his convictions were honestly entertained, and that he at least was impressed with the thought that the labors of the Convention, whether performed upon this floor, in the committee room or elsewhere, were no child's play, no mere holiday pastime: every source of knowledge open to him was penetrated, I might say ransacked, to obtain information bearing upon the subject specially committed to his charge, yet he did not forget those in which all had a common interest. Few of the members of this Convention were his equals in diligent search for light; none, I venture to say, his superiors.

But, Mr. President, this second invasion of our circle should remind us "that it is appointed unto man once to die;" sooner or later the summons will come to each of us; none are too exalted to escape, none too lowly to be overlooked or forgotten. We shall be commanded to lay aside this mortality and put on immortality, and whether we are ready or not, whether our work is done or undone, the summons must be obeyed. Like the patriarch of old, like our brother whom we mourn, may each of us have his loins girded, his sandals bound upon his feet, and with staff in hand be ready to enter upon that journey from which there is no return. May we have "our lamps trimmed and burning," so that when we are called it shall be from labor to reward; and that it

may be said of us, as we can say of our departed friend and brother :

“Let Faith exalt her joyful voice,
And now in triumph sing ;
O Grave, where is thy victory ?
And where, O Death, thy sting?”

Mr. W. H. SMITH, of Allegheny County. To me, Mr. President, this dispensation has been peculiarly impressive. The lamented delegate from Washington, the honest and earnest Mr. Hopkins, sat here on the right, and Mr. M'Allister sat on the left of my seat, but one chair removed from my own. Owing to the occasional absence of the delegate from Franklin, I was brought into very frequent intercourse with our last departed co-laborer. And although I never met him but once before I found him here, and know but little of his character or antecedents, I have been impressed with his unflinching constancy and firmness in maintaining what he considered to be right. His labors in this body, and in the committee on which he served, were untiring, and I am informed that his anxiety about our progress here and its final results were intense and without intermission. Like Mr. Hopkins, who only a few weeks ago preceded him on the inevitable journey “to that undiscovered country,” he entertained the homely and primitive sentiment

that to hold public office was not a privilege only, but a privilege that was associated with a high responsibility. Whoever may have been neglectful of duty or faithless to their official obligations among the many servants of this great Commonwealth, it may be emphatically said of Hopkins and M'Allister that they were eminently faithful—faithful even unto death. I might go even yet further, Mr. President, and say that he who has just left us has sacrificed his health and life to extraordinary labors here. Indeed, we may suppose that the lives of both these good and exemplary men might have been prolonged for much usefulness if duty here had never been undertaken by them, or if their part had been performed in an inattentive or casual way. To each or either of them the State may say with unreserved approval of their labors, "well done, thou good and faithful servant," and to all that remain, "let your official course and conduct be like theirs."

Mr. M. HALL STANTON, of Philadelphia. Mr. President: In the death of our much-honored and esteemed colleague, the Hon. Hugh N. M'Allister, of Bellefonte, our Convention has lost a most useful member, and Pennsylvania a son whose life and character have been to her "an honor and a pride."

His unexpected death—unexpected, at least, to

many of us—has cast a gloom over our proceedings, a shadow over the pleasant relations existing among us, which time alone can dispel. Few men ever gained more friends in so brief a period as did the lamented departed while in our midst.

His amiable disposition, gentle manners, good qualities, and manly, honest bearing, endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He was a man of extraordinary energy, and of a virtue of character which commanded universal respect and admiration. Beloved and honored at home, esteemed and revered abroad, his death, in the midst of his usefulness and valuable services, has caused a vacuum not easily filled. As chairman of the Committee on Suffrage, Election and Representation, he proved his great ability, extensive knowledge, and thorough honesty of purpose in his aim to serve the interests of the people of our Commonwealth. He was also an invaluable member of the Committee on Railroads and Canals, and whenever duty required, his voice was heard upon every important measure which had come before this Convention up to the hour when the grim monster, laying his hand upon him, bade him to come up no more to this place. But he is gone from among us. His seat is vacant, and his strong voice is hushed forever.

“Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,
And stars to set—but all,
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death.”

We who mourn his loss can the more readily sympathize with those to whom his death will involve many a day of sorrow which time alone can alleviate, and religion alone can reconcile. To those bereaved ones we sincerely extend our sympathy; feeling, also, that they have the consolation to know that their beloved departed had lived a life honorable to himself, his family and his State, and in the fear and service of his God. He was truly such a man as the poet had in mind when he said,

“Man is his own star: And the soul that can
Render an honest and a perfect man,
Commands all light, all influence, all fate:
Nothing to him falls early or too late.”

Mr. FRANK MANTOR, of Crawford County. Mr. President: Standing in this hall as I do this morning, I desire to say but one word on this solemn and important occasion. I cast my eye on this side of the hall and I see two seats which have been made vacant by death, and all within a very brief period of time—a few days at most. Two delegates in the active pursuits of life have been called away, one whose eulogy has already been pronounced by nearly a

score of delegates on this floor. The words they uttered here are implanted in all our hearts. We then said, one to another, who next? This inquiry is well made, if we remember that *sacred declaration* that "there is *but one step between thee and death.*" We all thought then as we now think, and as no doubt our worthy associate thought, "*it is not I* but you, or some one else;" but it was not you nor I, but it was he, who thought as we thought then. But the grim messenger came, and by his never failing word, has beckoned his victim home, and we can say to-day in our own hearts, *who next?* It is *you or I.* It may not be this day or to-morrow, but the separation will come. It may be in the morning or the evening time that we shall be called from the toils and cares of life to the better land beyond.

It is hard, it is unfortunate, to lose a friend like Mr. M'Allister. I became acquainted with him at an early stage of this Convention. I watched his movements; I saw his anxiety to do his duty, and more than once did I admonish him that he was overtaxing his system with the care that he was bestowing on his part of the work of this Convention, and his reply to me was; "*I wish to do my duty and to do it well.*"

Such seemed to have been his most anxious thought, and from this standpoint he seemed always to be acting. But, sir, we all know that he has died

with the harness on—died a true man, whose life of industry we can safely imitate. This Convention can ill afford to lose him; but then he rests in peace. No more shall life's troubled ocean toss his frail bark, and as we bid him a final farewell, we can say:

“Unveil thy bosom, sacred tomb,
Take this treasure to thy trust,
And give these sacred relics room
To slumber in the silent dust.

Nor grief, nor fear, nor anxious care
Invades thy bounds. No mortal woes
Can reach the silent sleeper there,
Where angels watch his soft repose.”

Mr. T. E. COCHRAN, of York County. Mr. President: I should have no warrant to interpose in the bestowal of these memorial tributes to the distinguished delegate at large from the County of Centre, were it not for the fact that he was a member of the committee of which I had the honor to be chairman by your appointment. I think it is proper for me to bear testimony here to the great earnestness, zeal and fidelity with which he labored to discharge his duty upon that committee. Day after day he was assiduous in his attendance, and even at a time when sickness would have prevented almost any one else

from laboring, he came to the committee room and gave us the benefit of his counsel and his services.

Mr. President, we had every evidence to satisfy our minds of the perfect integrity and the full sincerity with which he entertained the opinions that he expressed, and advocated the measures that he preferred. He was indeed a man *justus et tenax propositi*, a man who was firm and devoted in his purpose, and unswerving in the vindication of that which he believed to be right. It was most grateful, sir, to agree with him in opinion, because we knew that when we agreed with him we had the concurrence of a man of sound judgment and of single honesty of purpose. Opposition in opinion to him seemed to stir one with an emotion resembling

“The stern joy which warriors feel
In foemen worthy of their steel:”

for he met contest of opinion fairly and squarely, and encountered those who differed from him face to face.

Sir, that was the characteristic of Mr. M'Allister in his connection with the committee of which I have had the honor to be chairman, and I think there is no member of that committee who will not say that these few words which I have uttered here are a simple and

just acknowledgment of his merits and of his services among us.

Mr. President, his labors on earth with us are ended; but we have the consolation to confidently believe that he has departed to a higher sphere of reward above. We have a right to entertain "the reasonable, religious and holy hope" that "for him to depart was for better," while his departure is indeed to us a loss which we have the greatest reason to lament.

The PRESIDENT. The question is on the resolutions of the gentlemen from Centre.

The first resolution was unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT. The second resolution will be read.

The second resolution was read, as follows:

Resolved, That his death deprives this Convention of one of its most enlightened and industrious members, the Commonwealth of one of her most public spirited and useful citizens, the community in which he lived of a man whose indomitable energy, inflexible integrity, and spotless moral character attracted to him the confidence and affection of all who knew him, and his family of a kind and devoted husband and father.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The next resolution was read the second time, as follows:

Resolved, That we do most heartily offer to the members of his bereaved family the homage of our sympathy and condolence in this the time of deep distress.

The resolution was adopted.

The next resolution was read the second time, as follows:

Resolved, That in respect for the memory of our departed colleague, the President is requested to appoint a committee of — delegates to attend his funeral at Bellefonte, on Thursday next.

The PRESIDENT. There is a blank in this resolution. How shall it be filled?

Mr. CURTIN. I suggest seven.

The PRESIDENT. Seven is named. If no other number is named, the blank will be filled by seven. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was adopted.

The last resolution was read the second time, as follows:

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to transmit

a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT. It will be entered on the Journal that these resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

Mr. BUCKALEW. I ask leave to make a report from the Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Representation.

The PRESIDENT. The Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Representation ask leave to make a report at this time. Shall the committee have leave?

Leave was granted.

Mr. BUCKALEW. Mr. President: I report the resolutions adopted by that committee in reference to the death of their chairman.

The PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be read.

The CLERK read as follows:

In the Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Representation, May 6, 1873, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the members of this committee have heard with deep sensibility of the death of their chairman, H. N. M'Allister, of Centre County, who has fallen at his post of duty, leaving an honored memory among all his colleagues of the Convention.

That his death may be justly regarded as a public loss, and to all of us who survive him, it brings sincere sorrow and regret.

That we desire to bear willing testimony that, in the transaction of business by the committee and in his relations thereto, their late chairman always exhibited untiring industry and earnestness, zeal for the right, and a sincere desire to reform all existing abuses in government.

Resolved, That the acting chairman of the committee be desired to present the foregoing resolution to the Convention, with the request that the same be entered upon the Journal, as a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. BUCKALEW. I move an order that the resolutions reported be entered on the Journal.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. CHURCH. I move that, as a further mark of respect, the Chief Clerk be directed to drape this Hall in mourning for the space of thirty days.

The PRESIDENT. The question is on the motion just made.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. J. S. MANN, of Potter County. Mr. President: When a good man dies the people mourn, and it is

fitting and proper that his associates and companions should commemorate his virtues over his open grave. I know how difficult it is to speak with profit on such an occasion; and therefore I shall trust myself to utter but very few words.

I have only to say that the body of Hugh N. M'Allister is dead, but his example still lives and will long live to bless the community in which he resided and the State of which he was an honored citizen, for, if it may be said of any man, it may truthfully be said of him, that he was one of the noblest works of God, an honest man. Out of respect for his memory, therefore, I now move that the Convention take a recess until three o'clock.

The motion was agreed to, and at twelve o'clock and eight minutes, the Convention took a recess until three o'clock, P. M.

The PRESIDENT appointed Andrew G. Curtin, of Centre, Andrew Reed, of Mifflin, John M. Bailey, of Huntingdon, William H. Smith, of Allegheny, Thomas R. Hazzard, of Washington, J. Alexander Simpson, of Philadelphia, and George N. Corson, of Montgomery, Committee ordered by the resolutions; all of whom attended the funeral of the deceased, which took place at Bellefonte, Centre County, on Thursday the 8th day of May, 1873.

BIOGRAPHY

OF THE

HON. H. N. M'ALLISTER.

Hon. H. N. M'Allister was of Scotch-Irish descent; his great grandfather having emigrated from Ireland to Lancaster County, Pa., about the year 1730. His grandfather, Major Hugh M'Allister, was born in Little Britian Township, Lancaster County, in 1736. He enlisted as a private in Captain Forbes' company in the Indian war of 1763, and served faithfully until the close of hostilities. During the darkest hours of the revolutionary struggle Hugh M'Allister was the first man to volunteer as a private to form a company for the purpose of reinforcing the shattered army of Washington. This company was raised in Lost Creek Valley, now Juniata County, and was commanded by Captain John Hamilton, the father of Hugh Hamilton, Esq., of Harrisburg. The company commanded by Captain Hamilton joined the army of Washington the day after the capture of the Hessians at Trenton. Hugh M'Allis-

ter was successively promoted to be Lieutenant, Captain, and Major. Towards the close of the war he was in command of the forces stationed at Potter's Fort, Centre County, and commanded an expedition sent to punish the Indians for depredations committed near the Great Island, where the city of Lock Haven now stands. At the close of the war Major M'Allister retired to his farm in Lost Creek Valley, Juniata County. He was married to Sarah Nelson, and raised a large family. Hon. William M'Allister, son of Major Hugh M'Allister and Sarah Nelson, was born on the farm of his father, in Lost Creek Valley, in August, A. D., 1774. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812, and was, for a long time, one of the Associate Judges of Juniata County. He was married to Sarah Thompson.

Hugh Nelson M'Allister, eldest son of Hon. William M'Allister and Sarah Thompson, was born on the farm owned by his father and grandfather, in Lost Creek Valley, Juniata County, Pa., June 28th, 1809. He lived at home, and worked upon his father's farm during his minority, receiving such elementary education as the schools of the neighborhood afforded. He received his instructions in the rudiments of the classics from Rev. John Hutchinson. He entered the Freshman class at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, in 1830, and stood so high before the

end of the year as to be chosen by his society as one of its debaters, which honor, however, his modesty and timidity induced him to decline. He graduated in 1833, high in a class in which were many more, since distinguished in the church and State. As soon as he graduated Mr. M'Allister commenced the study of law, in the office of Hon. W. W. Potter, in Bellefonte. After completing the ordinary course of studies pursued by students in an office, he attended a law school, then conducted at Carlisle, by Hon. John Reed, President Judge of that district, and author of "Pennsylvania Blackstone." On the 25th of November, 1835, on motion of W. W. Potter, Mr. M'Allister was admitted to practice in the several courts of Centre County. He was at once taken into full partnership by Mr. Potter, and the election of the latter to Congress soon after threw at once the whole labor and responsibility of an extensive law practice upon the young partner. As in every subsequent situation in life Mr. M'Allister brought so much ability, earnestness, zeal, and indomitable perseverance to bear as to overcome all obstacles, and to successfully meet all responsibilities resting upon him. The early death of Mr. Potter, while in Congress, left Mr. M'Allister alone in the practice, to compete with one of the ablest bars in the State. He remained without a partner until Gen. James A. Beaver was

called to the bar, in 1859. From that time the law practice was conducted under the firm name of M'Allister & Beaver. During the long professional career of nearly thirty-eight years, he had an extensive, laborious, and lucrative practice. Until the last eight or ten years he regularly attended the courts of Clinton and Huntingdon Counties, and, at times, courts of other counties. As a counsellor he was always discreet, careful and safe. As an attorney he was faithful, honest, and industrious. As an advocate was earnest, zealous and, at times, impressively eloquent. He would embark in no man's cause unless thoroughly impressed with its *justice*, and then he battled as only a man of his temperament could battle, for the *right*. In the preparation of causes he was most thorough, and frequently performed an amount of labor which seemed beyond human endurance. His arguments before the Supreme Court of the State, of which the books of reports are full, were always strong, clear, and exhaustive.

During the late war, Mr. M'Allister was one of the most earnest and zealous supporters of the administration. He was ever foremost in contributing means and performing work to secure volunteers, and in supporting the families of those who were in the service. He did more than any other one man to raise and organize the many companies which left Centre

County, and finally, almost by his unaided exertions raised a full company, and was elected its captain, and upon its arrival at Camp Curtin, in Harrisburg, was assigned as Company "F" to the 23d regiment of Pennsylvania Militia, commanded by Col. Geo. B. Weistling. Although far beyond the age when men are relieved from military duty, and being unfit by education, habits and the state of his health, for the hardships of a campaign, he accepted the responsibility, went with his company to the field and served faithfully until his place could be filled by a younger man.

Mr. M'Allister never held many public offices. Governor Bigler, when a vacancy occurred in the Fourth Judicial District, desired to appoint him to the Presidency of the Common Pleas, and asked his friends to grant his name, and Governor Curtin twice formally offered him commissions as President Judge which he declined.

After the close of the war, he was appointed by the Governor one of the Commissioners to investigate, settle and adjust the claims of citizens of the border counties for losses sustained by the war. This arduous and responsible duty he performed in a manner highly satisfactory to the State officials, as well as to the people immediately interested. At the last Republican State Convention, he was selected as one of

the fourteen delegates at large to the Convention to reform the State Constitution. The nomination of the delegates at large by either party was, under the provisions of the act calling the convention, equivalent to an election. He at once commenced a thorough preparation for the duties thus devolved upon him. He procured all works on Constitutional Law, the proceedings of Constitutional Conventions, the various State Constitutions now in force, or which had been proposed, and all other publications bearing upon the subject within the reach of any private citizen, and devoted months of incessant study and labor to master their contents. When the convention assembled in Harrisburg, last November, probably no single member was so thoroughly prepared as he to enter upon an intelligent discharge of the labors for which they were convened. He was appointed chairman of the important committee on "Suffrage, Election and Representation," and a member of the committee on "Railroads and Canals." He entered upon his work with the energy and zeal which ever characterized him. Unfortunately he did not limit his labor by his physical capacity to endure it, but by his desire for the permanent good of his native State. Towards the close of winter, his strength gave way under incessant toil, and he was compelled by his physician to return home for rest. He remained at

home four or five weeks, during which time he improved in strength. Three weeks before his death, actuated by an intense desire to take part in the important discussions then going on in the Convention, and by his improved health, he went back to Philadelphia, and at once engaged arduously in the labor of the Convention. He made several important speeches upon questions pending before that body. He had over estimated his strength, for his intense labor brought on the disease which, in a few days, terminated his earthly career. Literally he offered himself a sacrifice upon the altar of his Commonwealth. He sacrificed his life in his effort to protect the people from the corruptions of the times, and the evils of misgovernment. The delegates at large, elected upon the ticket with him, will select a *successor*, but they *cannot fill his place*.

As a citizen Mr. M'Allister was always enterprising, public spirited and patriotic. He took the lead in every enterprise designed to promote the public good. He labored hard and contributed liberally for all such purposes. This he did, not in a spirit of speculation to promote his own good, but to benefit the people. He was one of the projectors, the constant friends and liberal supporters of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. He kept the County Agricultural Society in existence for years almost

unaided. He was the friend and supporter of the Common Schools, Academies, and Seminaries, as well as Sunday Schools. For many years he was the recognized head of the organizations in the county for the promotion of temperance. As a neighbor he was ever considerate, kind, obliging and liberal. As a man he was just, upright and inflexibly honest. He was not honest from *policy*, but from an innate love of right and an intense hatred of everything wrong. As a husband and father he was most kind, gentle and affectionate. As a Christian he was sincere, faithful and most exemplary. For a long time he was not only a member but an Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte, and took an active part in the labors of the sessions, presbyteries, synods and general assemblies. It would take a volume to contain an enumeration of his virtues and his labors, and in this brief notice we shall attempt no further to detail what all who had the benefit of his acquaintance knew so well. He was a man with *no vices*, and as few of the imperfections incident to human nature as is ever found in our race.

Mr. M'Allister was twice married—first to Henrietta Ashman Orbison, of Huntingdon, Pa., by whom he had seven children, four of whom died in infancy, and one, Ellen E., a lovely daughter, died in 1866, at the age of twenty. Two daughters, Mary A., the

wife of Gen. James A. Beaver, and Sarah B., wife of Dr. Thomas R. Hays, both of Bellefonte, survive their father. The first Mrs. M'Allister died April 12th, 1857, and on September 12th, 1859, Mr. M'Allister married Margaret Hamilton, of Harrisburg, a granddaughter of Captain John Hamilton, under whom *his* grandfather served in the revolution, and daughter of Hugh Hamilton. By this second marriage Mr. M'Allister had no children. He leaves his widow to mourn her irreparable loss.

It will doubtless be generations before another citizen will die whose loss will be so deeply and universally felt, and whose place in public and private stations it will be so impossible to fill.

AT HOME.

At a meeting of the members of the Bar of Huntingdon, Clearfield, Clinton and Centre Counties, held in the Court House, in Bellefonte, on Thursday, May 8th, 1873, the following proceedings were had :

The Hon. CHARLES A. MAVER, President Judge of the Twenty-fifth Judicial District, having been called to the chair, stated the object of the meeting, when

Hon. SAMUEL LINN, formerly President Judge of this Judicial District, but now of the Lycoming County Bar, on behalf of the Committee previously appointed, offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

1. *Resolved*, That we have learned with feelings of profound sorrow of the death of Hon. H. N. M'Allister, who for a period of nearly forty years stood in the front rank of the legal profession, not only in this and the neighboring Judicial Districts, but who by his learning, his industry and integrity, has acquired throughout the entire State a high and enviable reputation as a lawyer of eminent ability ; and who, by his liberality, his enterprising spirit, his devoted patriotism, his steady and earnest desire to be foremost in every good work whether pertaining to religion, morality, education or patriotism, by his open hearted benevolence and his unswerving devotion to duty, and to the advancement and promotion of whatever he regarded as right, has won the unbounded esteem, admiration and confidence of the entire community ; and who, by reason of intense anxiety to perform his whole duty as a

member of the Constitutional Convention regardless of the decline of his physical strength, fell at his post a martyr to that high sense of duty which has been the guiding star of his life.

2. *Resolved*, That as members of the legal profession, we fully appreciate the irreparable loss that our membership has sustained by the decease of one of our number to whom we have been accustomed to look for wise and prudent counsel and stood amongst us as an acknowledged leader ; one whom we had learned and been accustomed to admire and esteem for his many estimable qualities, for his profound learning, his kindness toward the younger members of the profession, his sterling honesty and integrity, his benevolence and hospitality, his fidelity to his clients, and his untiring devotion to the faithful execution of every trust committed to his care.

3. *Resolved*, That his death will be deeply lamented by all whose privilege it was to know him ; by the church of which he was an officer and exemplary member, and to the interest of which much of his time, his zeal and his worldly substance were freely offered ; by all those who sympathized with him in his efforts for the education of young men and fitting them for spheres of usefulness ; by the associations organized for the promotion of religion and moral reform ; by the poor, who shared largely in his bounty ; by the friends of public improvement ; by all, both young and old, who resorted to him for counsel and advice ; by a sorrowing community who feel and know that a great and a good man has been called to his reward ; but most of all by his own family circle who best knew his virtues and his worth, and were the constant recipients of his favor and his love.

4. *Resolved*, That the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania has, by his death, suffered the loss of its best, truest friend, and patron, who devoted to its permanent foundation and ultimate success the best and the most disinterested energies of his life, and to whose efforts the institution owes its present prosperity and its bright prospects of future success.

5. *Resolved*, That we will attend his funeral in a body, and will

wear the usual emblem of mourning for his departure and respect for his memory.

6. *Resolved*, That we sympathize with his family in their sorrow, and that A. O. Furst be a committee to convey to his widow and children our expression of sincere condolence and to present to them a copy of these resolutions.

7. *Resolved*, That Hon. James McManus is appointed and requested to present the foregoing resolution to the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County at the next term thereof, and to move the said court that the same be transcribed and entered at large upon the record of the court.

SAML. LINN, *Chairman*,
A. G. CURTIN,
JNO. H. ORVIS,
ED. BLANCHARD,
A. O. FURST.

Hon. SAMUEL LINN then addressed the assemblage as follows:—Mr. President: The occasion that has called us together to-day is fraught with sorrow; but in the theme presented for contemplation and remark we find we can give free expression of our grief. There is here, sir, no temptation to drag out from retirement any delinquency that may be polished over when clothed in the garb of virtue; no mystery to be passed by in painful silence, or covered by the mantle of charity. No, these things have no presence or place here. The theme here, to-day, is upon the record of a long, virtuous, useful and well spent life; and the living of that life fills us with pride that such a man lived and had his being among us. We

are tempted, sir, because he was one of us, to appropriate to ourselves some of the honor which belonged to him alone, because he was our associate and our friend; a friend who has been called to his reward by a summons which no mortal may disobey, and which no mortal can disregard.

Of his early life, I am not here to speak, for I could give no just account of it. We are here, sir, to deal with him as a man, as a lawyer, as a citizen, as a neighbor, and in all these characters we knew him well. He first came to the bar, if my recollection is correct, in the year 1835, and was admitted to the bar of this county. Of the early years of his practice, I know but little from observation, for I had not then entered upon the pursuits that belong to mature life; but in his after years I knew him well, and knew him to appreciate and esteem him. He was a man anywhere and always devoted to duty. What his hand found to do he did it with his might; and his sense of duty, as stated in the resolutions, was the guiding star of his life. He knew no other motive; and no matter what obstacles might be found in his path to deter, he put them all aside, and pressed forward to the completion of what he felt to be his duty.

As a lawyer he was profound, learned in the science of his profession; not bound down by the precedents, for he well knew the elementary principles

of the profession which he practiced, and which enabled him to arrive at the proper conclusion of any question he undertook to examine and determine. We all know his position at the bar, and with what success he practiced here for a long series of years; and if there was any necessity for further evidence, the records to be found in the vaults of this house would attest to us of his entire devotion to the interests of his profession. As a citizen he was present in every good work. What he undertook to do, he did well. He never engaged in anything and did a part; what he attempted he finished, and finished it well.

As a member of the church to which he belonged, he was zealous, pious, faithful, liberal; in all respects he acted his part well. As a citizen he was benevolent, kind, and eminently hospitable. His doors were always open. His table was free; and if any of the poor around us were here to speak, they would tell of many deeds of benevolence wherein the right hand of the deceased was never allowed to know what the left hand did.

I could speak of many of the virtues of the departed in all the departments of life; for in every department he acted his part well and faithfully. He was kind to the younger members of the bar; ever ready to relieve them of the embarrassments thrown

in their way, of which there are so many to the younger members of the profession. And how many of them seek advice in this wise, which they can only learn by inquiring of their elder brethren. No matter what the business before him, or how pressing, it would be temporarily set aside that he might give counsel to those who needed it. He lived to see the advancement of many of these members of his profession.

He was faithful to the court; and I believe he never stated as a principle in law that which he did not believe to be well sustained by authority; for he never argued a case without examining it thoroughly, and he never attempted to speak upon a subject without having given it full attention and much study.

He was a thorough lawyer, as his success at home and in the supreme courts testify. We all know how diligent he was in the practice of his profession. He came fully up to the definition of duty given by Lord Brougham, in his famous speech relative to the duty of counsel to his client: "that an advocate in the discharge of that duty should know but one man in all the world, and that man his client." He went straight forward in the discharge of that duty, looking neither to the right nor to the left. No matter how much labor and inconvenience, no matter what trouble, he went through it all to save his client. He served

them honestly. Of his large practice I shall not speak. I do not think it necessary to call to recollection that which is so well known to every person in this vicinity.

He has gone, sir, to his God. Of those who were members of the bar when he was admitted to membership, I believe but four remain. All the others have been gathered to their reward. To-day their remains are resting in the tomb, their graves covered with the green sward and the wild growing vine. Now he has gone to his reward. To say he was a perfect man I will not undertake. No mortal was ever perfect. He had his weaknesses and defects; but they never descended to the degree of moral delinquency. Neither did immorality ever belong to his character. He was upright, virtuous, honest, learned and intelligent; and well for us, Mr. President, if, when we are called to yield up our accounts and to answer to the summons which sooner or later awaits us all, we may find in the record of our lives as few imperfections as did he. We behold his imperfections with his great virtues as we do the spots on the sun. They are visible because of the height of that luminary. So with him; but with men less virtuous, less learned, and with lower attainments, these things would not have been noticed. Because he was great, good, eminent, and virtuous; because he was a man

of eminent piety, these little defects of character shone out in him when they would have been invisible in others.

There are those here who knew him better than I did, although I stood beside him at the bar, and was engaged in the profession long enough to know he was the kind of a man I have described. Others more intimate with him, who are present here, can better express his admirable qualities than I can; but to no man will I yield the appreciation of character that I hold to-day in memory of our departed friend. Now, may we say of him, in view of his life, in view of his virtues, and in view of the manner in which he discharged every duty belonging to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

EX-GOV. ANDREW G. CURTIN, as Chairman of the Committee of the Constitutional Convention, said:—
Mr. President: I think it very kind in the members of the bar to select me to second the resolutions which have just been read, and which so faithfully and truly portray the character of the citizen we have lost; for it is many years since circumstances separated me from the fellowship of the members of this bar, with whom I enjoyed so long such intimate and pleasant relations.

The death of this man causes me to think of the

period of time when he came to the bar; and to remember that, save and except the venerable gentleman who sits upon your right (referring to Hon. James McManus), the members of the bar, in practice in Centre County when Mr. M'Allister commenced his professional life, are all dead. Then that kind, hospitable, and just man, so genial in his nature, so rigid in his integrity, Judge Thomas Burnside, was upon the bench. That learned lawyer, William W. Potter, was then the leading advocate of this and the surrounding counties; and that example of learning and purity which attracted to him by common consent the title of "honest," was in practice, John Blanchard, a little the junior of Potter; his equal in learning in all respects, to him I was attached, as I have rarely been to any man living or dead, for his just, useful and pure life. The genial, delightful companion, learned and eloquent advocate, Bond Valentine, was then at the bar. The gifted Petriken, who died so early in his life, was then living. James Burnside was then in full practice, and James T. Hale, both of whom had the honor of a seat on the judicial bench, and discharged their duties of a private or public character with a measure of ability and integrity which attracted to them so much of the affection and confidence of this community. One by one they have gone. And now another is added to the list of the dead, and our

memories are charged with the departure of one more bright and shining light of this bar. More than all that, more than an admiration of the legal learning, or the strifes and antagonisms which follow the professional life, we hold in our memories their characters as citizens of the community, and we measure to them our gratitude by the good they did during their lives.

I know full well that Mr. M'Allister never had those attractive, magnetic qualities which makes a man what is termed popular. He never did—it was not in his nature to condescend to the arts by which men too often attain to high official position, or who become popular in the political acceptance of that term; and yet I doubt much whether we could have stood over the grave of one citizen of Centre County who would be so universally mourned, and whose loss would be more severely felt. It is not the bar alone that sustains this loss. The society in which this man moved; the people to whom he gave an example of integrity and virtue; the community that surrounded him, has received a wound that is bleeding to-day, and throughout all this region of Pennsylvania there will be sincere mourning, because a useful citizen and a good man has died.

Mr. M'Allister carried into the convention to reform the Constitution of the State the same indomitable

energy, the same zeal and diligent labor, which wasted his life while he was engaged in the discharge of his professional duties at home. He took to that body a sincere conviction of the great trust given to him by the people of this Commonwealth; and while there devoted himself to the task assigned him with such assiduity as to surprise all his colleagues who were not acquainted with his earnest nature; for they had never known a man like him—a man with such devotion, zeal and anxiety. He worked at night when other men slept. His convictions of duty were intensified by the zeal of his nature, and in pursuit of these convictions he deliberately formed and carried to the Convention, worked out the remnant of his life, already so far reduced by ill health and over-work.

I saw my friend and neighbor often during his last illness. Indeed for a time I was the only person who could see him, except the members of his family, who had gathered around him with so much solicitude and care. Every day I went to the Convention I was called upon to answer numberless and anxious questions by men who never saw him before he took his seat in that body. To know him was to respect and admire him; but if they did not know him personally, his colleagues soon learned to appreciate his integrity, and the force and ability with which he maintained his

settled opinions, and so great was his anxiety to effect reform in the organic law of the State, and discharge this public trust with fidelity, that when his mind wandered, and the grim monster was feeling for his heart-strings, his thoughts were in the Convention, where he expected not to make a reputation, but to do good. I am glad to say to his friends and neighbors in this place, that his last office was discharged with the same fidelity to duty, that he discharged all his trusts through life; and when death finally closed the scene, we sent your neighbor back, to be put in the ground in Bellefonte, under the evergreen trees of our beautiful cemetery, where the winds of Heaven will sigh his requiem, as they will, my friends and neighbors, yours and mine before long.

To the members of this bar he leaves a priceless legacy in his example. Let them take the life of this man and imitate his discharge of professional duty. For us who survive him in this village and county, let us take his blameless life, his integrity and labor, as an example, and let us so walk in our life, that when we come to die and be carried to our final resting place, our friends and neighbors can truly say, as is said in those resolutions, that we led a life worthy of the imitation of those who come after us.

I said what I deemed proper and true of Mr. M'Allister in the Convention when fitting honors

were paid his memory in that body, and am glad to say that the delegates, upon all of whom he has made so favorable an impression, received what was said with marked approbation. They believed me when I told them that Mr. M'Allister was virtuous, honest and religious. I am glad I bore such testimony to his character, for I knew well that in the words I spoke I uttered the sentiment of the hearts of his neighbors fresh and warm, and that all who knew him would feel that all that was said of him was true.

I cannot trust myself to say more. My venerable friend, (turning to Mr. McManus,) we will soon be gone, and then new and younger men will take our places. We are the last of that body of men who were at the bar when Mr. M'Allister first made his appearance in our courts, and who since has illuminated his profession of this and surrounding counties. To the dead, farewell. Let us who remain imitate his noble example.

Hon. JOHN SCOTT, United States Senator, representing the bar of Huntingdon County, said:—Mr. President: In rising in behalf of the members of the bar of Huntingdon County to second the resolutions which have been read, I feel that I can but repeat the sentiments which have already been expressed by those who lived nearer, and knew better, that member

of the bar whose death we are here to mourn, and to whose memory we are here to pay respect.

The iron tongue of time, sir, which has just sounded out its voice upon the air reminds as how rapidly the fleeting hours have gone since first we met him, and how rapidly we, too, are going to that bourne to which he has gone, and to which we are all tending.

Coming to the bar in 1846, I met Mr. M'Allister in full and successful practice; a practice which he retained so long as he continued to visit the courts of Huntingdon County—some fifteen or sixteen years. Often his colleague and often his adversary, I had ample opportunity of studying and knowing him as a lawyer; and, sir, no man could meet him, no man could be associated with him, no man could contend against him, without feeling that he was contending against the power of conscience and the truth; for whatever Hugh N. M'Allister uttered came from a mind and was warmed by a heart which believed everything he uttered to be the truth. An intensity of devotion characterized him, which perhaps we could not with truth attribute to any other member of the bar with whom we have been associated. Certainly it has never been my lot to be associated with any one who became so entirely absorbed in devotion to what he believed to be duty. This, sir, was

not only so at the bar, but it was so in every relation of life into which his activity carried him.

I remember well, sir, when he came from this town in the trying year of 1862, in response to the call which Gov. Curtin issued to the people of Pennsylvania; just at the time our Southern border was threatened, and a few days prior to the battle of Antietam. Serving as an assistant to Adjutant-General Russell, I was engaged in the duty of receiving and quartering troops, and forming them into regiments after they arrived, so that they might be despatched to the Southern border. When Mr. M'Allister came there I met him. Within one hour after his company had been assigned to its quarters I observed him traveling from the quartermaster's department to the camp, laden with equipments necessary for his company, carrying the articles on his back. In less than half an hour afterwards, I found him seated at his quarters, with an open book before him, as deeply absorbed in the study of military tactics as though the army was to be his abiding place for life.

I not only met him at the bar, but in other avocations of civil life. I remember how he was tried by the prejudice of the public, which would not receive the great enterprise in which he was engaged with favor; that great enterprise, the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, which leaves upon your soil a monu-

ment to his memory, and one that should make that memory fragrant to every citizen of the Commonwealth.

I met him also in another sphere where he exhibited the truth of the great intellectual and mental superiority which made him leader of the bar. It enabled him also to illustrate that humble faith which led him to be a consistent follower of the meek and lowly Saviour of men; and there, too, this same consuming zeal was his characteristic. I feel, sir, that this is a subject upon which I cannot enlarge, and I need not enlarge in this presence. I feel, sir, that few words are needed when we come to pay the last tribute of respect in this community, and in this atmosphere, to this man. When it was intimated to me, perhaps thirty-six hours ago, that I would be expected to say a few words, as a representative of the bar of Huntingdon, I sat down in the few minutes that I could snatch from other engagements to see whether I could sketch his character in a few words that would be only fitting upon this occasion. Let me, after apologizing for doing so, read what I hastily penned, but what I believe to be true.

“Mr. Chairman: In assembling to pay our last tribute of respect to the memory of Hugh Nelson M’Allister, we all feel that we come to stand around the grave of no ordinary man. Those of us who have

associated with him in the toils, the conflicts, the triumphs, and the defeats which make up so much of a busy lawyer's life, soon learned and understood the intensity of his nature. Earnest thought and earnest work were the employments of his honorable and useful life. They were elements so marked in his character, that while they gave him much of the prominence he attained in the busy sphere in which he acted in life, they also doubtless had much to do in bringing that life to its untimely end. They betokened with him

“‘A fiery soul which, working out its way,
Fretted the pigmy body to decay.’

“Devoted to a single pursuit, and placed where his actions would have told upon public affairs, rather than private interests, his untiring industry and his mental vigor would have made a man of commanding influence among any people and in any station. He was the less a great man, because he sought not to live in the gaze of the world, or to place his name upon the fleeting breath of fame. He was great in the discharge of duty; duty as he understood it—present duty regardless of personal consequences; and at the bars of our county courts he discharged it with an ability, a fidelity, a fervor of zeal, a high integrity which upon other fields would have made him a hero

in arms, a great leader in the path of science, a Luther leading a reform, or a martyr dying for the right.

“Whether examining his client’s case, advocating it before the tribunals of justice; whether advocating the interests of his County or State, or that pursuit to which he was so much devoted; whether seeking to bring comfort to the homes of the devoted ministers who have given their lives to the service of his and their master; whether engaged in the relief of those in penury; whether in the Convention framing the organic law of the State; wherever he was, we found him to be that man of whom, coming now to stand before his open grave, we can truly say he fulfilled the scriptural injunction—he was ‘diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.’ Peace, sir, and honor to his memory.”

CLINE G. FURST, Esq., of the Clinton County bar, said:—Mr. President: In rising on the part of the Clinton County bar to second these resolutions, these most fitting resolutions, I feel more forcibly than ever I did in my life that, that clergyman was eloquent indeed who, laying his hand on the forehead of his dead monarch, said: “God alone is great.” I feel that he was as truthful as eloquent.

Mr. M’Allister was my friend. I was his friend

and I loved him. I became acquainted with him in August, 1851, when I entered his office, and I was a student therein for two years. He was my preceptor. He practiced his profession in Clinton County, from the formation thereof till 1866, and what Judge or lawyer has seen him rise in court and make a statement, that did not feel that he believed every word he uttered. And as has been well said here, when he stated the law to be this, or boldly declared it to be that, no one has believed he was stating as law what he thought was not law. No man can call to mind in a long contested case, in any case, and I care not how much preparation attended it, how much was involved, or that it finally ended by compromise, that Mr. M'Allister in anything, deviated from the strictest truth. It was never thought he could be tempted to violate his word. Who has heard him argue a case in court that did not say he had a logical mind? You could not hear his statement of the law, and attend on his argument of his case, without declaring that he was a man of great legal knowledge and of deep research.

To state that he was a most profound lawyer would be but to assert what we all well know.

In his decease the bar of this country and the bar of the Commonwealth has sustained a great loss. Every honorable act of the lawyer, and his fame, as

well as every particular virtue attaching to the man, becomes the common patrimony of the bar—the bar's inheritance.

I well remember some instructions he gave me. He told me he never read light literature—novels, things forgotten as soon as read. In reference to reading law, he stated to me, it was not the number of books read but how I read. Better to read few books, and read them well; but above all things possess yourself of the principles of the common law, and when this you have done you will stand upon ground behind which no man can go; you will occupy a position from which you cannot be dislodged.

Again, in speaking of the honesty and veracity which should always accompany the dealings of man with his fellow man, (a thousand recollections now crowd upon me in relation to this), he said, "A man is not always required to speak when it is his interest to remain silent; but if he does speak he is bound to speak the truth."

No eulogium I could pronounce upon him would add to his memory. His fame is secure. He was not ambitious to hold office, or for anything that he might appear great before the world; but as has been said of another, he was ambitious rather that God might pronounce him good. If I were to inquire after what was his motto, by what rule was he

governed—looking over his life from the time I first knew him, now over twenty-one years, I would plainly see that to *be*, rather than seem to be, was the inspiration by which he was governed. I would write for his motto:—*Esse quam videri*.

When you look upon his character as a man, as a citizen, as a lawyer, or in any capacity, you behold a good man; for no one can recall any moral delinquency in him, and when you give to him his most exemplary Christian character, extending through a long series of years, it is plainly seen, and we all believe that when Mr. M'Allister descended to his grave a good man ascended to God.

HON. GEORGE R. BARRETT, of the Clearfield County bar, said:—MR. PRESIDENT: I esteem it a great privilege to be here on this occasion to mingle my own individual sorrow with those who feel most sorrowful here over this great bereavement. It is a still greater privilege to represent the Clearfield bar, and to second the resolutions which have already been read. When the lightning flashing over the wires brought to us in Clearfield the intelligence of Mr. M'Allister's death, not only his brethren there in the legal profession, but all who knew him, felt to mourn and to sorrow; although he had seldom or never been there to mingle with the bar at their homes, yet, they knew

him there and in other places. They knew enough of him to esteem him as a man, and to admire his character and reputation when living, and they felt it would be a privilege to mingle their sorrow with his most intimate friends.

In Cole's great picture of the Journey of Life, he divided that great journey into four periods—youth, manhood, middle age, and the decline of life. It was my privilege to meet, and to associate with, and to know the deceased well and intimately during manhood, middle age and in his declining years. I knew him only as his friends here knew him. I knew him only to know that he had emerged from youth, and entered upon manhood, to honor the period he had left behind; and when in a few years the wheel of time had rolled him on, and he had left that period in the history of his life to enter upon middle age, it was only to leave the past in the history of his life the better of his having lived in it. So through all that great journey until he had moved down in the declining years to his last moments.

I say it to-day, sincerely, it would have done my heart good to have had the privilege of our much esteemed friend, Governor Curtin, to have watched around him in his last moments; to have seen his eyes closed in death; to have witnessed the expira-

tion of that long, useful and pious life. He has made the journey. He has gone to his home.

We can class the duties of life under two general heads :

First, that we should all so live as to leave the world the better for our having lived in it.

Secondly, we should so live that when we approach the other world, to enter upon the unending eternity, our happiness may be vouchsafed there.

Under these two heads we may sum up the whole of life; the object of living, the privilege of death. Who here cannot bear honest, sincere, and heartfelt testimony, to-day, to the fact that our deceased friend fulfilled both these missions of his life? That when he left the world he left it better for his having been in it, and who doubts that he has gone to meet a happy resurrection? He has fulfilled his mission on earth, and why should we mourn over him here? Why should we sob over his departure? His time had come. His work was done; he had fulfilled his mission; and God, in his mercy, called the deceased in his declining years to his reward.

Mr. President, when we have followed his remains to-day to their final resting place, when we have seen him interred, when we have known that his immortal spirit has winged its way to heaven, when we have dropped the last tears of sorrow upon his newly made

grave; if we, on retiring, have promised that our lives shall be spent as was the life of Mr. M'Allister; determined that our earthly cause shall be patterned after his, that we, too, may exemplify these two great truths of his life, and have the bright prospects of the immortal crown and a happy eternity, we will have performed our duty.

The blanks in the sixth and seventh resolutions were then filled, when, on motion of Mr. Orvis, the body adjourned to reconvene at the late residence of the deceased, at 2 o'clock, P. M., to attend the funeral in a body.

FUNERAL OF HUGH NELSON M'ALLISTER,

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1873.

DISCOURSE BY REV. W. T. WYLIE.

Mr. WYLIE took for his text the second chapter of the second book of Kings, and proceeded as follows:

This word of God is a wonderful book in its adaptation to the children of men under all possible circumstances in which they can be placed. It is a book which must not merely be held in the hand, but treasured in the heart. I feel a peculiar sense of satisfaction as I hold in my hand what has just been given to me, a book which is filled with the notes and jottings of him whose hand is now palsied by death—his own study Bible—a Bible such as should be, my dear friends, in the hands of every one of us.

In the second chapter of second Kings we have the account of Elijah taken up to Heaven:

“And it came to pass, when the Lord would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

“And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the

Lord hath sent me to Beth-el. And Elisha said *unto him*, *As* the Lord liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

“And the sons of the prophets that *were* at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day? And he said, Yea, I know *it*; hold ye your peace.

“And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, *As* the Lord liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

“And the sons of the prophets that *were* at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day? And he answered, Yea, I know *it*; hold ye your peace.

“And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, *As* the Lord liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

“And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

“And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped *it* together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

“And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

“And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: *nevertheless*, if thou see me *when I am* taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

“And Elisha saw *it*, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof! And he saw him no

more ; and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

“ He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan ;

“ And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where *is* the Lord God of Elijah ? And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither : and Elisha went over.”

And when the sons of the prophets which *were* to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

In this exceedingly interesting and touching narrative, my dear friends, it seems to me that we have a full, instructive, and impressive lesson for the hour which has called us together to-day. One of the very first thoughts that comes out in this beautiful passage is, “how hard our parting with those we love.” Is there one here who has not learned this in his own personal experience—in his own immediate family circle ? Is there one here whose heart has not been touched with sorrow, and his eyes dimmed with tears, at one time or another ; if not thus borne the sadness and grief many times ?

When we see the bright sun shining in the morning it seems to us then all is joyous and hopeful ; no matter how long the day we look with sadness when the sun goes down. When life ends it is the sun-down of life. We say that one is dead if that one

has died in Jesus Christ, and at peace with the Lord God. We say he is dead when the angels of God sing and heaven is jubilant with joy over his entrance into that upper and better world. We have thus said in this bereavement; but it behooves us to sorrow not as those who have no hope.

How tenderly did Elisha cling to Elijah. He saw him at the last moment. He learned from him his last words of instruction. When Elijah asked, What he should do for him before he was taken away from him? Elisha's whole soul was wrapped up in the entreaty—"Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." So in the parting with those who are near and dear to us we, too, learn that God is ordering these things. This would be a strange world if death would never enter it. What would be the condition of this world if it were not for these experiences through which God is purifying, purging the hearts of men, preparing them for the better life? A little tree may be taken out of the forest, and on account of the little space it occupied it will scarcely be missed; but when a great monarch is stricken in its immensity, how many there are to mourn, so great is the space which is left vacant.

In this passage we have not only brought before us the fact of the hardness of parting, but we see, also, the Divine power that is given to the servant of God.

We speak of death as a river, and it is commonly spoken of as the "Jordan of death." Here we find the servant of God who, about passing to glory, stood upon the bank of the stream and with his prophetic mantle he smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither so that he and his sole companion, that would remain with him, went over on dry ground. Here have we not the triumph of the Christian that overcometh? When the stream is deep and the waters are forbidding, and we stand on the brink, then, with the grace of God in our hearts, and with this wand of faith—this perfect mantle—we may smite the waters and divide them that we may go safely over. Elijah went over triumphantly to meet that which was to carry him gloriously from this world. As they went along the concern of Elijah is significant when conversing with his companion. When a child of God is to leave this world, and has the assurance of joy beyond, he still feels deeply for those who remain; for friends who are not ready to go and who cannot feel as the dying believer feels. He feels particularly anxious and solicitous in his separation from the dear ones.

It is a consolation to the living when the departed one has passed up to God triumphantly—when he has passed through the valley and through the deep waters and entered upon his heavenly kingdom. It

is for those to be glad who remain. It teaches us not only to be submissive, but something better. It gives us that spirit of acquiescence, "Even so, Father, for it seemeth good in Thy sight." Not only does it give grace to say, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;" but we catch a glimpse, by faith, of the saints in heaven—we see through the passage way through which the departed has gone to his rest.

Then in this passage we see the sudden call. Elisha would cling to Elijah. He would not be forced or prevailed upon to go back, and Elisha said "As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee." He clung to him step by step; and when the sons of the prophets at Jericho asked him if he knew that to-day his master was to be taken from him, the reply came, "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace." He knew that the separation would come better than any of them; but when the call came, how sudden. All at once the chariot of fire and horses of fire swept down and parted them; his master was caught up in the chariot and rode by a whirlwind to the glory above. He did not go into darkness. A thousand years afterwards he stood with Jesus Christ upon the mount transfigured, and talking with Moses and with Jesus. When our friends and brethren in Jesus go away from this world, they do not go into blank

nothingness, they go into blessed activity. How would it be of our brother if we thought of him as going into a state of inaction? The servant of God has the assurance when he dies, "To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

When death comes to us, no matter after how much sickness and weariness, it always finds us unexpectedly—I do not say unprepared, for the Christian is always prepared to meet him by faith in Jesus Christ. No matter what has been the previous warning, when it comes it is like the chariot of fire and the horses of fire, sweeping down and calling away the one who has been preparing for this change.

Then we have in this the realizing cry. As the prophet Elijah was caught up and disappeared, the whole soul of Elisha was poured out. He cried out and said: "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." In this cry two thoughts are brought before us; and these two thoughts express, it seems to me, the thoughts to-day not of the immediate family only but of the entire community; and that feeling rolls over and beyond the State, for our brother had an influence and power not only at home but in the church, in the Commonwealth, and far from his home. The very first cry was expressive of bereavement—"My father! my father!" The one we look to for instruction is "my

father." The one who cares for his family, his children and guides them, is "my father." What recollections cluster around the name "father." When he has grown old in years, we seek him for wisdom and counsel. What love, what wisdom the father shows. God has used this very name to give us a proper realization of the nearness of our relation with him. When God calls such away, it seems to me that the children left learn a meaning and significance in those words used in infancy that never appeared to them before. "Our Father, who art in Heaven." Now, when such a father is called from earth to Heaven, the bereaved and mourning children cannot say in the morning prayer again, "Our Father, who art in Heaven," without feeling that they are drawn by a new bond to that unseen and not unknown—to that glorious one who is our Creator, Preserver, Benefactor, Lord, Redeemer.

I dare not, my friends, trust myself to speak upon this subject of personal bereavement. I am unfitted by my own relations to this beloved man in the years I have been ministering as pastor of the church here, and in what I have learned in my intercourse with him in his Christian life and service. I do not believe many names could be stricken down in our community and our State whose removal would cause

a more extended sense of bereavement in any community in which they have dwelt.

The words I have used are followed immediately by "the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." Israel had been exposed to bitter and destructive foes. In years that had gone by the great protection of the nation was not its armed force; it was not its chariots and horses brought up out of Egypt—Elijah was a host in himself. Does this not teach the importance of proper laws, not only to the State Constitutional Convention, but to members of the bar representing this and surrounding counties. The great want of our nation, to-day, is just such men as our departed brother. Of unquestioned and unflinching integrity, with a firm manliness and a purpose to face wrong, he was determined to act with reference to the will and approval of God. We may well pray to-day that the spirit he has manifested in his relations, both in private and public life, may be poured out in double portion upon our State and our whole land. Of his loss to the public we will not speak. We leave for others, who have been associated with him in public life, to speak of the public loss. Our whole town and this entire community feels we have lost one upon whom we have been leaning for strength and support.

The most cheerful lesson in this most instructive

passage is that which follows this cry: "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." The mantle was not taken with him. The God who, by his grace, made this brother what he was, is not dead. God lives and calls every one to come to him. O, Christian friends and brethren, is it not needful that every one of us should come to Him for full strength and grace, for full consecration to the work yet to be done? May I not say to those who have strength—may I not appeal to those who are not ready—you who so deeply feel the loss of this man, with all your respect, and affection, and love for him—will you not, to-day, seek that like him you may rest upon this Rock which nothing can move? Will you not build upon this foundation which no storms of life can sweep away?

Elisha did not sit down in idle sorrow. The dearest earthly friends must turn from solemn afflicting scenes as this, but not to wrap themselves up in their sorrows. There is work to be done, and we must smite the waters and set out upon the journey over the land which still remains before us. Elisha set forth again upon his mortal mission, and the sons of the prophets observed him and recognized him as moving and working in the same spirit which characterized Elijah, his master. As he went along he came near a beautiful spring, and a whole city depended upon

the fountain. That city was losing its existence, and the ground around it was barren because the waters of the stream were not life-giving. He came and purified that fountain, and it flowed out again healed, and giving life, joy and fruitfulness. O, ye who stand by the well springs of society, or the work to which God calls you, go from this solemn service, that with the mantle you may part these streams and purify these fountains and thus help to make society what God would have it to be. We trust the influence of our departed friend and brother may be still felt, as we were assured this morning by the representatives of his profession and the delegates of the Convention of which he was a member, and in devotion to the proper aims and results of which he poured out even life itself. There are wrongs to be righted, and services to be rendered, and work to be done; and by this open coffin, to-day, I call upon each one of you to go forth looking to Him, the Almighty Father, for new grace, resolved that by His help and strength you will labor with new consecration in His service in the work which He gives each one in his place to do.

The day before the death of our Christian brother his companion, we understand, asked him if he knew how ill he was? He replied "O, yes." And the question was asked whether he trusted in Christ, and

confided in Him? The answer was given in but two words, yet how worthy to be cherished—"Full assurance." Not because of what he had done, but because of what Christ had done. I never knew a man who so entirely realized that all his works were naught; that the grace of God was to be magnified. Let us seek this full assurance that we may remember our Redeemer lives, and that He is just as ready to receive and sustain and bless as we are to be received and sustained and blessed by Him. Then having the full assurance that can come only to the fully confiding, trusting heart, that is devoted constantly to Christian living, we shall be prepared for death whenever and wherever it may come, as was our brother who has just gone before.

ACTION OF THE SESSION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BELLEFONTE.

At a meeting of the Session of the Presbyterian Church, held 17th May, 1873, the following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, in his All-wise yet to us inscrutable providence, to remove from our midst by death, our beloved brother, H. N. M'Allister, who, for ten years, so faithfully and well performed his duty as an Elder and Office Bearer in this Church, and who, by his mature wisdom, earnest zeal and devout Christian life, won the confidence, esteem, and love of every member of the Church with which he was connected :

And whereas, In this sudden bereavement the Session has lost one of its most efficient members, one whose counsel was often sought and followed, whose heart never wearied in well doing ; whose faith was ever strong in God, who devoted much of his time, his talents, and his means in promoting the peace, the unity and prosperity of Christ's kingdom ; who, in the later years of his life, rendered invaluable service to the church at large by the assistance which he gave in securing a scheme of Sustentation, by which the weaker congregations of our church might be supplied with pastors who would also be supported by a free and voluntary system of contribution : Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we bow humbly in submission to the will of our Heavenly Father, who has so suddenly taken from our number one whose work seemed yet unfinished ; who was wise in counsel, faithful in the discharge of duty, exemplary in his Christian life, ever ready and willing to go where duty called, devoted to the cause of Christ, and who, by his example, his faith and benevolence, did much to promote the interest of the church at home and in distant fields of missionary labor.

Resolved, That as a Session we deeply lament the loss we have sustained in this sad bereavement. That we here record our deep sense of gratitude to God for the example of his life ; that we will ever bear in our hearts a warm and abiding appreciation for the faithful services of our departed brother, humbly trusting and

praying that through life his virtues and Christian character may lead and prompt us, who survive him, to a full and earnest discharge of every duty that God calls us to perform ; and that finally we may again be reunited with him in the mansions of the blest in Heaven, where sorrow and parting are never known.

Resolved, That we convey to the family of our deceased brother our heartfelt sympathy, together with a copy of these resolutions ; that the same be published in the "Presbyterian" and "Evangelist," and also be recorded upon our Sessional minutes.

W. T. WYLIE, *Pastor*,
E. C. HUMES,
A. O. FURST,
JAMES HARRIS.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF PENNA.

At a special meeting of the Faculty of the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, God, in his All-wise Providence, has removed by death Hon. H. N. M'Allister, who has, for more than eighteen years, labored as one of the Trustees of this Institution with a devotion rarely equaled. Therefore, be it *Resolved*,

1st. That the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania have experienced in his death the loss of one who, by his zeal, his ungrudging sacrifice of time, money and effort in its behalf, his hopefulness in the dark hours of its history, and his influence in winning others to its support, has endeared his memory not only to its Faculty and Students, but also to the friends of practical education throughout the country.

2d. That as a token of respect the Faculty attend the funeral ceremonies.

3d. That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and also, that they be published in the Bellefonte papers.

E. T. BURGAN,
Secretary of Faculty.

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